

## Prince Hassan tours Muwaqqar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visited Al Muwaqqar sub-district and met with its residents. The Crown Prince first visited the town's municipality and listened to people's demands and obstacles hindering development process in Al Badia region. Prince Hassan said that all Jordanian achievements would continue and progress should Jordanians adopt the true and correct bases of work. He also voiced hope the government would pursue investments in the three development regions — northern, southern, and central badia — through giving due concern to natural and human resources, stressing that industries should not pose any danger to the environment.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Volume 21 Number 6270

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 11-12, 1996, SAFAR 25, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Arabs slam Netanyahu's stance on peace process

Combined agency  
dispatches

ARAB COUNTRIES Wednesday slammed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline positions on Middle East peace negotiations, warning that his uncompromising stances could jeopardise the peace process.

In the first Arab reaction to Mr. Netanyahu's statements Tuesday in Washington, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said the peace process would stall if the Israeli leader refuses to accept the land-for-peace formula on which the negotiations were launched in 1991.

"This is very dangerous. Netanyahu is playing with fire," Dr. Abdul Meguid told a group of American Middle East specialists who are in Cairo for discussions with Arab League officials.

"But he will be the first one to burn with this fire. I am saying this, and it reflects the Arabs' opinion," Dr. Abdul Meguid added.

On Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu outlined his views at a White House news conference with President Bill Clinton, challenging the land-for-peace formula as the only basis for negotiations.

He said that Israel has a different view of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which urged Israel to return land seized in the 1967 Mideast war in exchange for peace and secure borders. He maintained Israel has made "substantial concessions on

all fronts."

Dr. Abdul Meguid said Arabs will insist that Israel should return "every inch" of the land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war before a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved. This would include Syria's Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Palestinians said on Wednesday they were dismayed at the absence of any softening of Mr. Netanyahu's hardline towards peace during his current visit to the United States.

"There was nothing new in what Netanyahu said — just more political arrogance," said Hassan Asfour, a Palestinian peace negotiator and legislator.

"Unfortunately this policy met with the support of the U.S. administration and this does not constitute a positive contribution to the peace process. In fact, it complicates matters even more," he told Reuters.

Mr. Netanyahu's positions "put a negative imprint on the whole peace process," Mr. Asfour said. Palestinian Justice Minister Fathi Abu Medine told Reuters: "This visit and the speeches are not worthy of comment because they fall within the old U.S.-Israeli relationship and the antagonistic American stand towards the Arabs."

Mr. Clinton said at a joint news conference with Mr. Netanyahu that he believed progress would be made towards peace and that U.S.-Israeli ties remained as strong as ever despite a

need for "adjustment" between the two sides.

Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab who advises Mr. Arafat, said Mr. Netanyahu could destroy the peace process if he continued to stick to his pre-election pledges not to trade occupied Arab land-for-peace.

"I don't want to be the person who declares the (Israel-PLO) peace process dead," Mr. Tibi told Israeli army radio. If someone intends to kill it, all he has to do is continue along the same line and fulfil his promises to the (Israeli) voter."

Syria said Mr. Netanyahu spoke the same language as that of Nazi Germany's Hitler and urged Arabs to punish him by reconsidering all measures to normalise ties with Israel.

Damascus's official press said Mr. Netanyahu's remarks after talks with Mr. Clinton dashed some expectations that the new Israeli leader would soften his hardline positions on Middle East peace.

"The Israeli prime minister does not only refuse the land-for-peace principle but addresses Arabs with the language of arrogance and carelessness which is the same language which was used by Nazi Hitler to Europe," Tishreen daily said.

"This requires a unified Arab reply implementing the Arab summit's decisions and fully reconsidering all measures to normalise ties with Israel," the paper said.

In Cairo, an Egyptian government newspaper said

there were limits to Arab patience and warned of eruption of Arab anger if Mr. Netanyahu persisted in his policies.

In a frontpage editorial, the newspaper, Al Akhbar, also said remarks by Mr. Netanyahu were provocative and arrogant and a sign that he was deluded into thinking he could frighten Arabs into submission to Israeli domination.

It was specifically referring to the hardline position Mr. Netanyahu adopted before leaving for the United States. It did not mention Mr. Netanyahu's remarks after he saw Mr. Clinton at the White House on Tuesday.

"The only explanation for these provocative remarks... is that he has lost his sense of responsibility and is trying to bring back the atmosphere of war and conflict," it said.

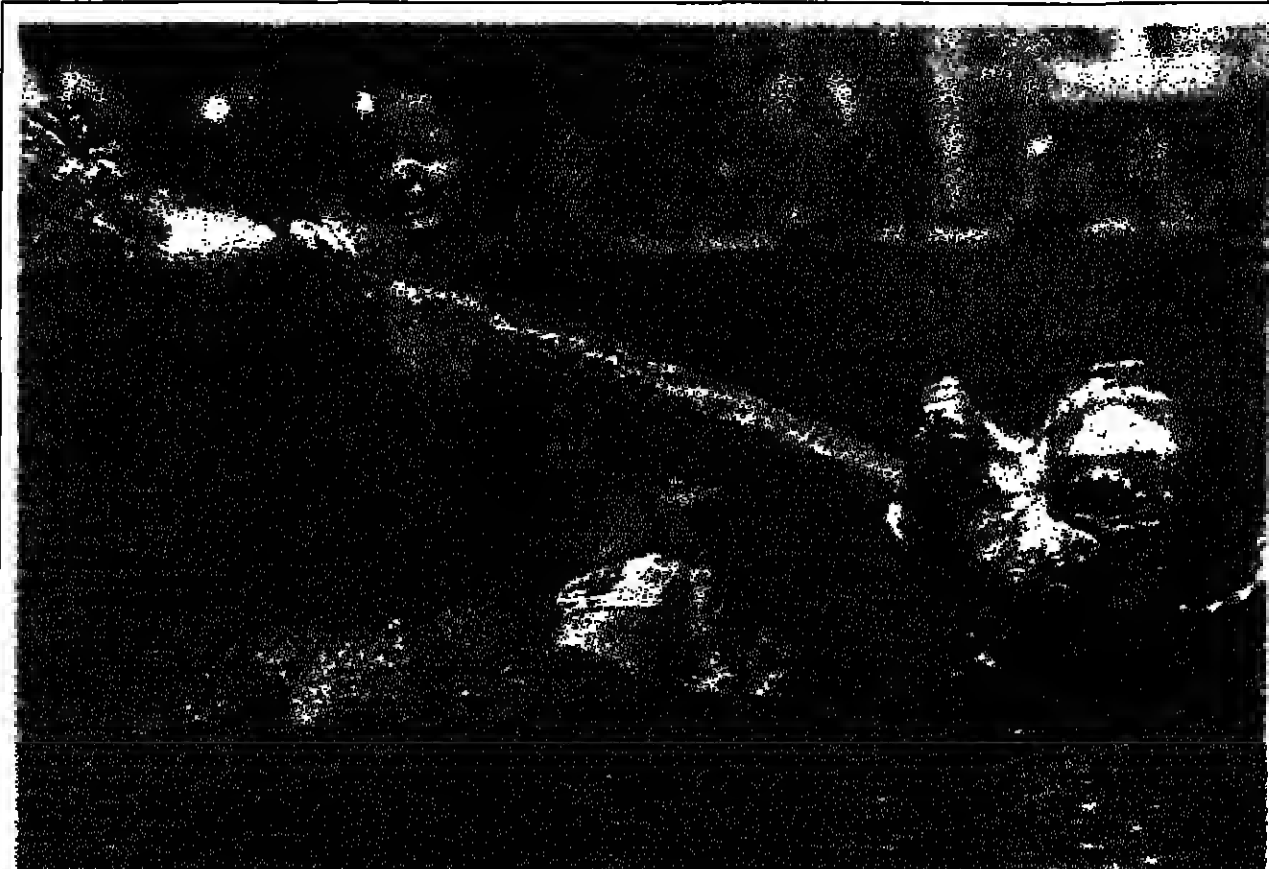
"The true description of these statements is vulgarity, arrogance and the delusion that these hoaxes might frighten the Arab side into surrendering to Israeli hegemony," it added.

Mr. Netanyahu said on Monday Arabs were having to compromise because of his tough stance on Middle East peacemaking.

He said nothing to dilute his opposition to a Palestinian state, to sharing sovereignty in Jerusalem with the Palestinians and to returning the Golan Heights to Syria.

Mr. Netanyahu maintained his hardline stands at

(Continued on page 7)



ESCAPING THE HEAT: A girl plays in a fountain at the former Soviet era exhibition of people's achievements as a heat wave hit Moscow Wednesday. The Russian capital is experiencing unusually high temperatures of up to 35 degrees Celsius (Reuters photo)

## Hebron youths clash with occupation soldiers

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — Dozens of Palestinian youths clashed with Israeli troops Wednesday after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to announce a date for a withdrawal from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation.

The violence, which broke out after youths threw a pipe bomb at army checkpoint, was reminiscent of the 1987-93 Palestinian uprising.

The pipe bomb did not explode. The troops fired into the air and chased the youths, who pelted them with stones and glass bot-

ties. An army bomb squad called to the scene detonated the bomb in two controlled explosions.

The youths dispersed after about an hour. The army sealed off the area, shutting down shops in the market area and imposing a curfew. No injuries or damages were reported.

An APTV cameraman was detained by border police who claimed he had entered the area where the bomb landed after it was declared a closed military zone.

The unrest underscored widespread disappointment at Mr. Netanyahu's meeting

with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington. Many of them had hoped Mr. Clinton would persuade Mr. Netanyahu to show more flexibility on Israel-Palestinian relations.

In particular, Palestinians are concerned about Mr. Netanyahu's evasiveness regarding the much-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron, and about the four-month blockade imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a wave of attacks by Islamic militants inside Israel.

"Netanyahu stuck to his guns, to his hardline approach," said Palestinian

Minister of Higher Education Hanan Ashrawi. Ahmed Qureia, a top negotiator and speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said he didn't hear anything "that showed a commitment to peace."

No immediate comment was available from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who was in Cameroon on Wednesday.

## Kabariti meets PSD director

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director General Nasouh Muhiuddin who briefed him on the duties of the PSD. Gen. Muhiuddin briefed the prime minister on efforts exerted by the Anti-Narcotics Department to foil drug-smuggling attempts. Mr. Kabariti voiced appreciation for and confidence in the PSD staff efforts to maintain stability and security in the Kingdom.

## Bahrain jails 4 for arson

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's state security court has sentenced four Bahrainis for one to 10-year jail terms on charges of arson attacks. Bahraini newspapers said on Wednesday. They said the court on Tuesday jailed two people, convicted of setting fire to parked cars at a garage and other cars in an area near the capital Manama, were jailed for 10 years each. Another two people received one-year jail terms each for setting a private car ablaze in the small island of Sitra. The court has sentenced at least 132 Bahrainis since the government, seeking to speed up judgements, in March ordered it to try hundreds of detainees held for street protests, sabotage and arson attacks.

## Arafat accuses Netanyahu of lying Israeli premier urges isolation of Iran, Iraq

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A spokesman for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of lying on Wednesday about the Palestinian position on Jerusalem. Within minutes of Mr. Netanyahu's telling Congress he would never allow the Holy City to be redivided, Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani issued a statement saying: "It's a pity that Mr. Netanyahu begs the sympathy of the Congress by lying on the Palestinian position on Jerusalem."

Speaking in Washington, Mr. Netanyahu declared Israel would never allow

Jerusalem to be divided between Arabs and Jews, adding: "We should not allow a 'Berlin wall' to be erected within Jerusalem."

But Mr. Kanafani told Reuters: "President Arafat and the Palestinian Authority do not want to divide the city, do not want to build a wall, do not want to put up barbed wires."

"They want a unified city, the capital for two peoples and this is the time that the President (Arafat) feels that he would stress the right of the Palestinians in Jerusalem, the city and the capital of the coming Palestinian state," he said.

Provoking a long-standing

ovation in a speech to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Netanyahu said, "there have been efforts to redivide this city by those who claim that peace can come through redivision... This is a groundless and dangerous assumption and it impels me to declare today: there will never be such a redivision of Jerusalem."

While the Jerusalem vow was a familiar one, it seemed to strike the balance Mr. Netanyahu wanted between conciliatory pledges to pursue peace with the Arabs and reassertions of Israeli toughness under his new right-wing Likud government.

On other regional issues,

Mr. Netanyahu called the United States to lead an international effort to isolate the "despotic regimes" of Iran and Iraq and prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons.

"Time is running out," Mr. Netanyahu said in a speech to the joint meeting of the two Houses of the U.S. Congress.

The prime minister also promised that Israel will progressively need less assistance from the United States as its wealth grows, that, too, drew applause.

Israel has for decades been the largest recipient of U.S. aid, which currently runs at \$3 billion a year.

## U.S. firm seeks review of Aqaba refinery deal

By Suleiman Al Khalidi

AMMAN — A U.S. consortium that lost a bid to build a \$2.5 billion refinery in Aqaba said it requested a re-examination of the award, government and company officials said Wednesday.

"We have submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister (Abdul Karim) Kabariti wherein we requested his personal intervention in assessing what has occurred and reviewing the offer our consortium has made," said Robert Hutchinson, president of Dallas-based consultancy Hutchinson Group Inc., in a written statement to Reuters.

His group, which includes

Texas-based construction firm H.B. Zachry International and California-based engineering group Parsons Corp. allege they were unjustly treated by the Ministry of Energy when it chose Delaware-incorporated asset management firm Corporate Holdings of America Inc. (CHA).

Officials said the prime minister this week asked the energy ministry to look into the allegations on the selection process and question the financial ability of CHA to undertake the project, the country's largest ever single foreign investment.

The ministry has since

## Iraqi dissidents claim successful strike

CAIRO (AP) — An opposition group claimed Wednesday that its fighters blew up a weapons making plant near Baghdad, killing seven security men and wounding 11 others. In a written statement, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq said a group of its guerrillas carried out the explosion in the site in Al-Obeidi district, about 20 kilometres east of Baghdad, on July 2. Two of the dead were officers in the influential intelligence service, said the statement telefaxed to the Associated Press in Cairo. Opposition groups have reported several recent explosions

and attacks on security and government officials, but there is no way to independently confirm these reports. The Iran-based Shiite group said that after the latest explosion, huge columns of smoke were seen from several kilometres away as the installation was set on fire by the blast. Later, a spokesman for the group, Akram Al Hakim, said the fighters returned to their base safely after they blew up the site, which he described as a weapons manufacturing installation belonging to Iraq's military industrialisation ministry.

## S. Arabia calls for high-level talks with Yemen

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has called for high-level talks with Yemen to push forward the work of a committee trying to settle a border row between the two states.

Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan said in comments carried by the official Saudi Press Agency on Tuesday night that if the committee was "meeting difficulties despite the efforts made by the kingdom, this undoubtedly does not correspond to our desire and our endeavours to reach a solution which would satisfy both sides."

He said Saudi Arabia therefore has called for a meeting of a higher Saudi-Yemeni ministerial committee "to push the work of the (border) committee forward and remove any obstacles obstructing its work."

Prince Sultan was apparently reacting to comments on Sunday by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh that the border committee had not achieved hoped for progress.

## Mubarak to visit Turkey for talks on Israel accord

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Turkey today to discuss its controversial military accord with Israel, just three days after the appointment of modern Turkey's first Islamist prime minister.

The "working visit" comes "after the Arab summit in Cairo (June 22-23) which called on Turkey to review its military agreement with Israel" signed in February, Egypt's state-run television said Wednesday.

Mr. Mubarak will hold talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, who invited the Egyptian president to visit during a trip to Cairo in March, the television said.

But a foreign ministry spokesman in Ankara confirmed he would be the first leader to meet with Necmettin Erbakan, who became on Monday the first Islamist prime minister since the creation of modern, secular Turkey 73 years ago.

Mr. Mubarak has been a fierce opponent of fundamentalists in his own country, waging a harsh crackdown on the banned Muslim Brotherhood, which has close ties to Mr. Erbakan's Islamic Welfare (Refah) Party.

Erbakan's predecessor and now junior coalition partner Tansu Ciller, although Ankara denied the accord was directed against the Arabs.

The accord allows Israeli air force pilots to train in Turkish airspace, and vice versa, whipping up a storm among Turkey's Arab and Muslim neighbours who fear it could threaten their security. The first Israeli manoeuvres over Turkey were held in February.

The deal also provides for Israel to refurbish 55 Phantom F-4E Turkish fighter planes over the next five years at a cost of \$600 million.

In June, Mr. Mubarak warned that Egypt would "act against any accord which could create an axis against any Arab country, including Syria."

He said that during a fact-finding trip by his Foreign Minister Amr Musa to Ankara last May, Turkish authorities "did not give enough information on the aim of this accord."

"To ease fears over the accord, the best thing Turkey can do is make it public," he said.

Before coming to power, Mr. Erbakan denounced the accord. On Saturday he said his government would stick to its international agreements, but warned

(Continued on page 7)



## Rights group accuses Sudan regime of using cluster bombs

NAIROBI (R) — A Swiss-based Christian human rights group on Wednesday accused Sudan's Islamist-backed government of using internationally outlawed cluster bombs against the civilian population in war-ravaged southern regions.

The Christian Solidarity International (CSI), told a news conference in Nairobi that recent bombings mostly in and around the southern town of Chukudum near the Kenyan border, had displaced thousands of people and disrupted humanitarian aid in the area.

Gunnar Wielbalck, a CSI official who had just returned from southern Sudan, showed the conference slides and pictures as evidence that hundreds of cluster bombs were lying around in bushes at great risk to the population there.

"These (bombs) are unconventional arms outlawed by the Geneva Convention. They are capable of tearing a human body to

pieces," Mr. Wielbalck said.

A Sudanese embassy official denied Sudan used the bombs but pointed out that Chukudum was a combat zone between government forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

"Our forces have never used cluster bombs. But remember that Chukudum is occupied by SPLA forces and not the civilian population as alleged by the CSI," the official said.

Mr. Wielbalck said the latest government raid on Chukudum was on June 17 when the Khartoum planes dropped 17 cluster bombs on the town's 5,500-population. No-one died in the raid.

"Our estimate is that hundreds, if not, thousands of such bombs are lying around the bush of southern Sudan. It is a sign that Khartoum is escalating the war in the south, people live in fear. It is a new stage of the war," Mr. Wielbalck added.

Sudan has been locked in war for the last 13 years between the rebel southern-based SPLA led by John Garang and Khartoum.

Over a million people have died in the conflict in Sudan since Mr. Garang's black Christian and Islamist rebels took up arms in 1983 for greater autonomy from the Muslim and Arabised north.

SPLA spokesman, Pagan Amum, told the same conference that the Khartoum government had used cluster bombs in 13 different areas of the southern region as part of its war against the SPLA. He did not give a time frame for the bombings.

"The Sudan government has used and continues to use cluster bombs against the civilian population in the south. The evidence is there for all to see," Mr. Amum added.

SPLA officials say their group had regained the military initiative following splits since 1991 and now controlled five regions

where the movement had established civil authority.

Mr. Garang, currently on a tour of Europe and America, last week appealed for international economic aid for areas under his control, saying such support would force Sudan's military government into a settlement.

The guerrilla leader said development of southern Sudan would "erode the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism by having a system in the south that works."

Aid workers and human rights groups have frequently accused the Khartoum army of indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas in the south and its militia of scorched earth campaigns against civilians.

They say women and children are routinely kidnapped for use as slaves or domestic labour but the government denies that slavery exists despite scores of accounts from escaped slaves.



JORDANIAN FAMILY NAMMASI WITH BABY YITZHAK RABIN IN PETAH TIKVA FACTORY: Rajai (left) and Maryam Nammasi pose with their five-month-old son Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday under a portrait of the slain Israeli leader in the factory where the Jordanian family live and work. Mr. Nammasi, who irked his countrymen by naming his baby son after Rabin, is trying to set up a new life for his family in the Jewish state to escape a smear campaign in his native Jordan that began after he visited Rabin's grave in April (Reuters photo)

## Algerian journalists threaten boycott, strike

PARIS (R) — Algerian journalists on Wednesday said they would boycott official activities from July 14 and organise a 24-hour strike at national newspapers unless the authorities freed a detained colleague and met other demands.

A statement, issued after a journalists' meeting on Tuesday in Algiers, said the journalists repeated a demand for the "immediate release" of Chawki Lamari, cartoonist for the French-language newspaper *Liberte*, and the ending of sanctions against the newspaper.

Algerian authorities arrested Mr. Lamari earlier this month saying he had mocked the country's flag in a cartoon. Police also detained La Tribune's director Kheireddine Ameyar and editor Baya Gacemi and interrogated them.

The statement demanded that the authorities drop all charges against the two.

"Profoundly indignant over the continued detention of their colleague Chawki Amari, Algerian journalists decided to organise a one-day strike at all national newspapers in Algeria at the start of next week," the statement said.

It invited all newspaper editors to support their action.

The journalists also decided "to boycott all official activities starting July 14," the statement said.

## Princess Ra towards col

ADMAN (Pera) — HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hussein, who is the daughter of the late King Hussein, is expected to visit Jordan in the near future. The Princess is currently in Saudi Arabia, where she is attending to her duties as the daughter-in-law of the late King. She is also expected to visit Jordan in the near future. The Princess is currently in Saudi Arabia, where she is attending to her duties as the daughter-in-law of the late King. She is also expected to visit Jordan in the near future.



Princess Ra towards col

## Netanyahu letter: Jews must be allowed to pray in Haram Al Sharif

From the Jerusalem Post

JEWIS MUST be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount despite Muslim opposition. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu maintains, in a letter presented to the Jerusalem District Court this week by former Jewish underground member Yebuda Etzion.

Mr. Etzion is being tried for allegedly attacking policemen who tried to

remove him from the Mount when he attempted to pray there last September. Jewish worship has been forbidden at the site since 1967, on grounds it would incite Muslims, who worship there at the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

Mr. Etzion presented the letter at a preliminary hearing held on Monday. He claimed that the letter, which Mr. Netanyahu sent him in response to a query

over a year ago, shows the prime minister supports changing the long-standing policy.

"I read your letter with interest," Mr. Netanyahu wrote to Mr. Etzion in March 1995. "The right of the Jewish people to its holy place — the Temple Mount — cannot be questioned."

"I believe it is necessary to arrange for Jewish prayer at the site, especially given that we permit freedom of worship to all the religions

in Jerusalem," Mr. Netanyahu continued. "Clearly, the matter must be dealt with the sensitivity it deserves. I believe we can do this properly when we return to govern the country."

Since the election, Mr. Etzion, who heads the Haikav group, and senior figures in the National Religious Party, have called on the government to allow for Jewish worship on the Temple Mount.

## Ramallah by night Palestinians get first taste of good times

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — After being bailed the West Bank's economic capital, Ramallah is fast becoming the hub of Palestinian nightlife as young people revel in their new freedom to go to bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

"Ramallah people like the good life," said Ricky Rukab, owner of a flashy new disco-pub called RR Cbeers in the town centre which he aims to make "the smartest place on the West Bank."

Customers crowd round the bar to drink a new brand of Palestinian beer and listen to outdated British pop music on the Voice of Love and Peace, a private radio station popular with the young.

Even at midnight the crowds keep coming, often to celebrate the graduation of a friend or a relative from the nearby univer-

sity of Bir Zeit.

"I had to turn people away on Saturday night because there was no room," Mr. Rukab said smugly, keeping a close eye on bar staff immaculately dressed in white shirts and black and gold waistcoats.

In six months of autonomy, Ramallah's young people have quickly acquired the habit of going out during the evening — unthinkable during the intifada (Palestinian uprising) and the 28-year Israeli occupation.

The town hall has been flooded with requests to open new nightspots since Ramallah was passed to Palestinian control under the autonomy accords at the end of last year.

A big success has been Flamingos, which opened in February to serve up

Mexican food and beer. Its walls plastered with posters of Elvis Presley, James Dean and other American icons, it stays open until 2 a.m.

Flamingos manager, Sultan Habbub gave up a job in the Palestinian security services and scraped together \$300,000 in investment to open the bar-restaurant.

"This town has a long tradition of openness and a sizeable Christian majority. The refugees who flooded here (from Israel) in 1948 did not swamp its character," Mr. Habbub said, explaining why he thought the risk was worth it.

In Gaza, the sheer density of people and especially the influence of Islamic fundamentalists do not lend themselves to a tolerant atmosphere like there is here," he added. Alcohol is banned in the Gaza Strip.

One customer drinking from a bottle of whisky chimed in that he "wouldn't live in Gaza for all the money in the world."

Kashouh Milad, who lived for 28 years in Sweden, said he had fulfilled his life dream by sinking his \$150,000 savings into Ramallah's newest restaurant, the Maroush.

"Ramallah is the most beautiful town in the Palestinian territories. It is already our economic capital and it will become our tourism capital, I'm convinced," Mr. Milad said.

Tourist spots including hotels are already under construction in Ramallah and Al Bireh, which have 70,000 inhabitants.

## Journalist held in Israel gets first lawyer's visit

HAIFA, Israel (AFP) — Lebanese journalist Ali Diya held in Israel has been allowed to see a lawyer for the first time since his arrest in South Lebanon a month ago, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Mr. Diya, 44, a correspondent for Agence France-Presse in the Israeli-occupied border zone in southern Lebanon, had not been mistreated, said lawyer Tamar Ullman, who visited Mr. Diya Tuesday in the Kishon jail close to the northern city of Haifa.

"He is being held in proper conditions," she added.

However, Israeli authorities have renewed his detention until July 17 and have still not drawn up precise charges against him.

It is the first time that a Lebanese journalist has been taken to Israel for detention, and until Tuesday he had been refused all contact with a lawyer. Mr. Diya, who also works as a correspondent for the Lebanese daily Al Safir and Future Television owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was summoned by the Israeli security services on June 13. Israel said on June 18 he was facing serious charges of aiding the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas which spearheaded resistance to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Hizbollah has denied he has any links with their Shiite militia. Several rights groups including Amnesty International have urged Mr. Diya's release.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Double Dragon (Cartoon)

15:30 NBA

16:00 Pirates

17:00 News flash

17:02 Children's Programme — Les Pollards

17:30 Varieties — Les Monde

18:00 News in French

19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia

19:30 News Headline

19:35 Here's Lucy

20:00 Varieties — Taratara

21:10 Star Trek

22:00 News in English

22:25 Feature Film — "The Diamond Fleece"

23:10 Comedy — Family Matters

### PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr

05:33 (Sunrise) Dhuha

12:41 Dhur

16:12 'Asr

19:49 Maghreb

21:22 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifiah, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church

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Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping slightly to become around average and winds westerly to northwesterly moderate to active. On Friday, temperatures are expected to drop further becoming below average. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 21/31

Aqaba 25/39

Deserts 18/35

Jordan Valley 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 42 Humidity

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Tasluq 757253

Dr. Bahjat Bader 832642

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432

Dr. Yahya Abdul Raheem 836072

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

URBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh 250080

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijazi 985445

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdall Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Russeil Medical Centre 813813/52

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Manshar Hospital 6672719

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are

supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08 (53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:15 Doha (add) (RJ)

09:30 Sanaa (RJ)

10:05 Riyadh (RJ)

10:20 Beirut (RJ)

10:30 New Delhi (RJ)

10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 Colombo (RJ)

11:00 Dubai (add) (RJ)

17:20 Moscow (RJ)

17:30 London (RJ)

17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:15 Athens (RJ)

20:15 Bangkok, Calcutta, Al Ain (RJ)



Algerian  
journalists  
threaten  
boycott,  
strike

## Princess Rahma urges youth towards community activities

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Wednesday stressed the value to the country's youth of working on land-related activities.

Ministry of Youth Secretary General Issam Arida opened a four-day symposium on planning youth projects and finding capital for them by delivering a speech on behalf of Princess Rahma.

The Princess stressed the need for youth to find ways to benefit from the land as a source of income as was achieved in neighbouring countries, she said.

The Jordanian national youth movement, she said, needs rejuvenation and not just with slogans and national folklore songs, but with practical steps allowing it to become more productive, especially through

working the land.

The Jordanian youth, she added, continue to face chronic problems such as unemployment and drug abuse which can be overcome through collective work, and a stronger dedication to serving the country.

In her speech, Princess Rahma said that the concerned authorities should help the youth take the initiative in dealing with unemployment and provide them with jobs that are currently filled by hundreds of thousands of foreign workers.

The symposium, organized by the Jordanian Association for Family Planning and Protection (JAFPP) in co-operation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Al Mustaqbal

Club, will address issues related to planning, organizing, and implementing projects, as well as finding capital for their execution.

The work and activities of the JAFPP were outlined by association member Buthaina Jardaneh, who presented details about the health and family planning services in rural families in the remote regions. She said that last year, the association organized a series of workshops to educate women on family planning.

USAID Director William T. Oliver told the audience that the symposium aimed at helping governmental as well as non-governmental organizations assist youth in improving their standard of living by educating them on the importance of family planning.

## Majali urges adherence to construction regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali Wednesday opened a five-week training seminar on construction materials and urged concerned parties to ensure that these materials correspond to nationally approved specifications and standards.

The construction sector, he said, still faces problems due to lack of control over the quality of construction materials. Neglect of the standards and specifications, he added, often result in negative consequences.

The minister said the Jordanian Contractors Association, the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Royal Scientific Society and the Natural Resources Authority should join forces in conducting comprehensive, scientific and practical studies on locally produced building materials and recommend ways to ensure that only good quality materials reach the markets.

He also called on the Jordan Engineers Association to increase its control over private laboratories which test such materials.

Mr. Majali also called for upgrading the 1991 national specifications standards, as well as a national training programme for engineers in the construction sector.

## World Population Day in Jordan takes hard look at HIV/AIDS

AMMAN (J.T.) — World Population Day, recognised today (Thursday) by the United Nations, emphasises community responsibility in the struggle against HIV/AIDS — one of the most prominent health issues facing the world's population.

"The purpose of this day is to shed light on the most prominent issues regarding world population and create a better understanding of these issues," said Lina Musa, programme officer for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). "This year, Jordan is sharing this day with a basic theme that instructs us to combat AIDS through collective efforts."

According to a statement issued by Nafis Sadik, executive director of the (UNFPA), approximately five people every minute contract HIV infection which leads eventually to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

"By the end of this century," he said, "more than ten million people will have died of AIDS..."

Dr. Sadik's statement was issued during a ceremony in Amman hosted by the UNFPA honoring World Population Day.

During the ceremony, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health Hashem Jedouh and Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh, both physicians, addressed the issue of AIDS and AIDS awareness in Jordan.

According to Dr. Jedouh, there have been



Participants attend a ceremony to mark World Population Day at Amra Forum Hotel

133 reported cases of HIV positive individuals in the last decade in Jordan. Of these, 46 are known to have AIDS.

According to the ministry, approximately 30 per cent of reported HIV cases were among foreign nationals.

Dr. Jedouh said that although Jordanian youth are generally well-informed about AIDS, officials need the cooperation of all quarters to encourage behaviour that would help prevent AIDS.

"Our youth are experienced in the knowledge of AIDS," he said. "Whether they hear it from internal or external sources — some-

times we find that our youth are actually more knowledgeable than we are."

"So it is time for us to start speaking to them in an open and frank manner about this issue. Socially, we keep saying that it is unacceptable, but it's really time."

"The problem that we face with our youth," he continued, "is that there is a significant difference between knowledge and practice."

"This is where we need help — from the family, from the mosque, from the church and in our schools," Dr. Shakhaneh said that in addition to AIDS aware-

ness, Jordanians should be aware of the country's explosive population growth.

Jordan's annual population growth rate stands at 3.3 per cent with urban population growth surpassing that figure at 4.1 per cent, according to the UNFPA State of the World Population Report released last May.

The country's population has risen from 586,000 in 1952 to 4.1 million in 1994, he said, and is expected to reach five million by the year 2000.

He attributed this sharp growth rate to three waves of forced migration and to high fertility rates.



Chairman of the Jordanian-Korean Friendship Association Sami Gammoh and Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jungil Oh Monday open the 1996 Korean Products Show at the Universal Expo Centre

## Korean products show displays wealth of human resources

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The annual Korean products show, which opened Monday at the Universal Expo Centre on University Road, is a further proof of the fruitful cooperation between Jordan and South Korea and stands as a glowing example for Jordanian businessmen and politicians of what a small country, with limited natural resources and no industrial base, could achieve in less than two decades by implementing policies focused on human resources development.

"Jordan's situation, with a small population and limited domestic market, but also highly educated and specialised human resources, presents many similarities with Korea, as it was 20 years ago," director of the Korea Trade Centre (KTC) in Amman Sung-Kuen Oh told the Jordan Times.

Pointing out that both countries enjoy a privileged strategic position in their respective regions, Mr. Oh added that, as Korea's development was supported by the U.S., Japan and the EU because it coincided with their strategic interests in Southeast Asia, Jordan, too, thanks to its geographical location and its political stand in the Middle East, can rely on the support of these same powers to boost its economy.

South Korea, whose per capita Gross National Product (GNP) has grown 10-fold in only 18 years, going from \$1,000 in 1977 up to \$10,000 in 1995, "has raised from the ruins of a world war and a disastrous three-year-long regional war by putting a special focus on its manpower and high level education," Mr. Oh said.

Stressing that "openness to the world is one of Korea's major foreign strategies, manifested by sharing know-how and expertise with its economic partners," South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Jungil Oh affirmed that "Jordan has great potentials, a suitable economic atmosphere and good grounds to set the basis for a bright economic future."

Fuelled by heavy and chemical industries and driven by a government policy focusing on exports, Korea's economic growth boosted the nation to the current status of the world's 12th largest trader, while its GNP is reportedly ranked at 11th in the world.

The world's six largest manufacturer of cars, fourth in steel production, second in ship-building and number one in the field of DRAM chips, Korea is not a miracle, but the fruit of "hard work," Mr. Sung-Kuen Oh told the Jordan Times.

According to the KTC, Korean-Jordanian economic relationships witnessed an increase of cooperation covering many fields of investment and trade.

Korean companies Goldstar, Samsung and Daewoo established joint venture projects with Jordanian counterparts to produce home appliances in the Kingdom using Korean technology and know-how.

Eleven Jordanian agents of a wide-range of Korean products, from home appliances and office equipment to passenger cars and commercial vehicles as well as automobile tyres and batteries, are taking part in the Korean products show.

While featuring a spectrum of the new Korean technologies to the Jordanian public, the exhibi-

tion also provides Jordanian agents, importers and joint-manufacturers with a chance to publicise their products and interact with the public.

Pointing out that "Korean businessmen are looking at Jordan as a gateway to enter other markets in the Mediterranean and Arab region, such as Syria, Iraq and the Palestinian self-rule area," Mr. Sung-Kuen Oh also stressed the need for "gradually reducing regional trade barriers and adjusting internal customs policies."

Regarding trade volume between the two countries, Korean exports to Jordan scored about \$141 million last year, while the Kingdom's exports to Korea amounted to \$50 million.

Jordan imports from Korea mainly automobiles, electronics and spare parts and exports potash, phosphate and Dead Sea products.

"If Jordan wants to enter the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it will have to gradually reduce its customs to comply with international standards," Mr. Sung-Kuen told the Jordan Times.

This year's Korean products exhibition also features special events such as a daily drawing in which valuable prizes, including satellite systems, television sets, washing machines and refrigerators are assigned, an exhibition of Korean paintings, and the show of documentary films on Korea played in a specially-equipped Video Show Corner.

The exhibition will run until July 14, and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## PSD announces multiple arrests

AMMAN (Petra) — A Public Security Department (PSD) statement announced Wednesday that officials have apprehended several suspects in connection with drug trafficking and drug peddling, as well as others suspected of dealing in counterfeit foreign currency. The PSD said it referred the suspects to court for trial.

The statement said that in the past two weeks, the Anti-Narcotics Unit seized 67 kilograms (kg.) of hashish, 4.5 kg. of heroin, and a large quantity of other drugs smuggled from a neighbouring Arab country and destined to another. The statement did not name the Arab countries.

Also in the last two weeks, the statement said, the unit handled 13 drug peddling cases and arrested 35 suspects (Jordanian and other nationals) in different parts of the country.

The PSD statement added

that police arrested two people in the act of selling \$37,000 in counterfeit \$100 bank notes, and another person attempting to sell 11,000 counterfeit Saudi riyals. All three suspects, it said, were referred to court.

The PSD also announced the arrest of several people involved in selling land through forged deeds.

One of the cases mentioned in the statement involved the illegal sale of 59 dunums in the Marj Al Hamam district west of Amman, estimated to be worth JD 1 million.

Another case involved a plot of 1,465 dunums in the Hamam Shamout district worth around JD 15,000.

The PSD said the police arrested several people while attempting to sell a 600 dunum plot using a forged real-estate deed in the vicinity of Qasr Snobar restaurant off the Queen Alia Airport road.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday visits Royal Jordanian (RJ) and meets with Chairman Basel Jardaneh to discuss the RJ restructuring process and ways to increase capital and alleviate debts (Petra photo)

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#### WHAT'S GOING ON

##### CONCERT

\* An outdoor concert by folkloric artists Sami Boudry and Bob Green at the American Embassy on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

##### PLAYS

\* Two plays entitled "The Return to the Door of Didamona" and "Gallery" (Arabic) respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

\* Play entitled "Aras" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 8:30 p.m.

##### FILMS

\* "Belle de Jour" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

\* "Strangers on a Train" (by Alfred Hitchcock) at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

\* "Breaking Free of the Earth" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Sharif) at Darat Al Fann, Jabel Weibdeh, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

##### EXHIBITION

\* "Korean products Fair 96" at the Universal Expo Show, University Road, until July 14





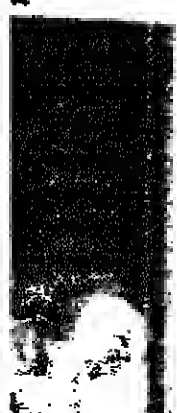


More World War graves desecrated in France



South African to second day

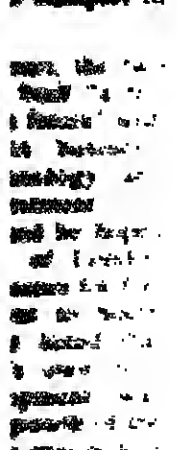
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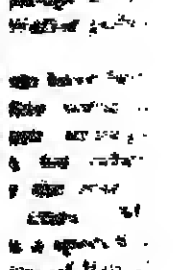
Japan may lift on birth control pills ban



Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president

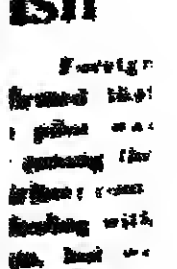


Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president



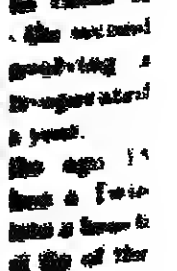
Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president

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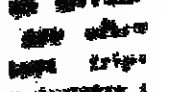
Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president

Foreign



Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president

Foreign



Protesters in the US for the arrival of a new president



New recruits for the Burundian army jog through the streets in the early morning hours during their daily training routine in Bujumbura. Thousands of young men have been recruited recently to try to combat the rebel Hutu movement which has recently stepped up its attacks (Reuters photo)

## Burundi army says it killed 22 Hutu rebels

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army has killed at least 22 Hutu rebels after they attacked a refugee camp north of Bujumbura, an army spokesman said Wednesday.

He said the rebels killed one civilian and wounded three others in the Monday attack on a camp of 1,200 internally displaced people in Rugazi, about 30 kilometres north of the capital Bujumbura in Bubanza province.



A Tutsi man holds his son who was wounded during a rebel attack on Teza tea plantation. Some 80 people were killed during the attack which was blamed on Hutu rebels (Reuters photo)

Government troops killed 12 rebels in an ensuing fire fight and later found the bodies of at least 10 others.

Also Monday, the spokesman said rebels ambushed a military vehicle in Kabezi region, south of the capital, and attacked an army position in nearby Rugazi, but there were no casualties.

A ferocious hit-and-run guerrilla war between the army and the rebels of the Hutu majority has killed more than 150,000 people in the small but densely populated central African country since 1993.

Meanwhile, Gaudece Maniramba, one of the latest victims of Burundi's tribal war, lay moaning in a hospital bed after she lost her baby and an arm in an attack on her hillside village by Tutsi soldiers hunting Hutu rebels.

A grenade had left a huge gash on her back where her nine-month old baby was strapped and died instantly. Her arm was amputated above the elbow because of bullet and grenade wounds.

Innocent civilians like 19-year-old Maniramba and her baby are bearing the brunt of Burundi's tribal war which has claimed more than 150,000 lives since 1993.

A senior Western humanitarian official, who asked out to be identified, warned that the pace of massacres in the central African state had increased dramatically in recent months.

He said more than 1,000 people had died in massacres blamed both on the army and the rebels in April. "We were counting bodies by the dozens. Now we've started counting bodies by three-digit numbers and in some months up to four-digits," he said. "The international community is waiting for a mega event to happen in Burundi. But a dramatically mega event is unfolding before our eyes."

"The magnitude and the trend of the massacres is shocking," the humanitarian official added.

"The soldiers came at dawn, gathered people on the road and said we were hiding rebels," Ms. Maniramba said Tuesday of the weekend attack on Mubura, north of the capital Bujumbura, in which aid workers reported seven Hutu killed.

"I fled into the bush. The soldiers started firing on us. There were no rebels in our village," she added.

In another ward were 14 wounded transferred from the northwestern region of

Cihitoke, victims of recent fighting between the mainly Tutsi army and rebels of the Hutu majority.

In one filthy hospital ward lay three villagers including a small boy, all with bullet wounds.

"The rebels attack, the army attacks. The result is that innocent people die," said one of them, Ogradias Uwimana, a young man.

In a massacre last Wednesday, Hutu rebels killed more than 80 civilians, mostly Tutsis, at a tea factory in the northwest.

This month, Western aid workers reported another massacre in which 111 Hutu villagers were killed in Mutambu village south of Bujumbura on June 12. Aid workers blamed the troops while Defence Minister Firmin Sinzoyiheba denied the killings.

To try to stop the bloodshed, Burundi's Hutu president and Tutsi prime minister requested a regional security force at an African summit in Tanzania.

A summit of the Organisation of African Unity in

Cameroon was expected to agree on concrete proposals on the assistance plan, which involves troops from Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia.

But the plan faces stiff resistance in Burundi.

Under pressure from Tutsi hardliners who called on President Sylvestre Ndirumunganya to resign, Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo has quickly disassociated himself from the initiative.

Mr. Nduwayo has portrayed the assistance plan as one which would boost the army and said any foreign force will be strictly under the command of the national army.

Mr. Ndirumunganya and other Hutu politicians say the force has to be neutral and capable of stopping massacres by the army.

"The situation is dramatic. More than 1,000 people are being killed every month, many of them by the army," said Jean Minani, president of the main political party representing Hutus. "Foreign troops have to have an autonomous command."

# Russia restarts its war machine in Chechnya

MOSCOW (Ageocias) — Russian guns and warplanes shelled a southern Chechen village Wednesday, stepping up a military onslaught on separatist rebels after a reluctant six-week lull.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted local officials as saying that at least 20 civilians had been killed and many others wounded when Russian forces shelled and bombed Mahkety, 35 kilometres south of the regional capital Grozny.

TASS later quoted a senior official of pro-Russian Chechnya authority as saying that three deaths could be confirmed so far. But the official made clear the number of casualties was high.

Russian Tsokayev told TASS that truckfuls of medical goods had been sent to the town of Shali where the injured residents of Mahkety were being treated. He said helicopters could be used to transport the injured to Shali.

Interfax News Agency quoted a Russian military spokesman in Chechnya as denying that any civilian targets had been attacked in the area. Igor Melnikov said Russian helicopters had been attacked by rebels and launched a "pinpoint" retaliatory strike.

In a separate report Interfax quoted the Russian military as saying at least eight soldiers had been killed and 20 others injured in Gekhi, where Russians used aviation and artillery for the first time since the two sides agreed a truce on June 1.

Interfax said the shelling of Gekhi continued Tuesday after women and children were allowed to leave the village.

But the agency later quoted a Russian commander as saying troops were withdrawn from Gekhi Wednesday after the local administration assured the military that rebels had left the settlement, 30 kilometres southwest of Grozny.

The rebels said Tuesday that Russian troops had been driven from the village. They said at least 20 residents had been killed and many more injured.

The Russian war machine in Chechnya has been fairly idle since President Boris Yeltsin agreed a truce and an exchange of prisoners at talks in the Kremlin with rebel chief Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev at the end of May.

Later talks, marred by mutual recriminations, brought little progress in ending a 19-month war which has already killed more than 30,000 people, most of them civilians.

The rebels want independence for the Caucasus region. Moscow says Chechnya is an integral part of the Russian Federation.

Moscow has accused the rebels of failing to disarm and free Russian prisoners, while the rebels have blamed Moscow for reneging on deals to pull troops out and close checkpoints.

The Russian military has complained that the truce only allowed the rebels to rearm and rebuild communications lines.

On Monday, days after Mr. Yeltsin won the second round of the presidential election, Russia's top commander in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, gave the rebels 24 hours to free prisoners or face tough action.

Fighting erupted in Gekhi before the deadline expired.

The rebels have threatened an "adequate response" if

Russia breaks the truce and returns to full-scale fighting.

A rebel spokesman said Tuesday that Russian prisoners could be killed if fighting resumed. But there was no indication Wednesday that the rebels were about to carry out the threat.

Interfax News Agency said Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov was planning to visit Chechnya Thursday to examine the situation there. Mr. Yeltsin's new security supremo, General Alexander Lebed, is also expected to visit the region.

Gen. Lebed, blamed rebel forces Wednesday for renewed fighting in Chechnya but insisted that he wanted a peaceful settlement of the conflict, Interfax said.

It quoted Gen. Lebed's spokesman, Yuri Ursov, as saying he "places all responsibility for recent events in Chechnya on the leader of the Chechen rebel movement Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, as well as other leaders of the opposition army."

Gen. Lebed's headline statement Wednesday appeared to contradict the accord, by saying there was "a legally-elected leader, a legally-elected parliament and a legitimate government" in Chechnya.

"A process of strengthening and enlarging those legitimate structures has begun at this time," it added.

The Chechen rebels flatly refuse to recognise the government put in place by Moscow and legitimised by elections which they say were rife with fraud.

Gen. Lebed's statement indicated that the Kremlin had reverted to a tough policy on Chechnya after adopting a soft line in the run-up to the presidential election.

However, a spokesman for Gen. Lebed said the general is "always amenable to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Chechnya, despite recent events in the republic."

Gen. Lebed's representative, Sergei Drogush, is currently in Chechnya, where he is conducting discussions with the leader of the separatist military forces, Aslan Maskhadov, according to a radio broadcast in Moscow.

Mr. Drogush has already met three times with Mr. Maskhadov to prepare for a future visit by Gen. Lebed in Chechnya, according to the radio report.

Shortly after his appointment as head of the Security Council between the first and second rounds of the presidential election, Gen. Lebed announced his intention to personally oversee developments in Chechnya.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Wednesday Russia had the situation in Chechnya under control and still backed a negotiated settlement, despite a new outbreak of fighting, Interfax News Agency said.

The agency earlier quoted a military spokesman as saying Russia's top commander in Chechnya had ordered the arrest of Mr. Yandarbiyev and that troops were attacking his headquarters.

"There will be no war in Chechnya," Interfax quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted him as saying: "There has been no failure in the presidential plan for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in the Chechen Republic — the federal forces have brought to their senses some of the rebels and their leaders who have gone too far."

## Ramos: No turning back on accord with Muslims

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos, attacked with rotten tomatoes by angry Christian demonstrators last week, said Wednesday that there is no turning back on his controversial peace accord with Muslim guerrillas in the southern Philippines.

Mr. Ramos told reporters he has gained the crucial support of 29 key local officials and national legislators from Mindanao on the planned establishment of a council led by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to oversee development projects in the region.

The accord, due to be signed within three months despite rising protests from the Christian majority, is aimed at ending 24 years of armed rebellion in Mindanao, the homeland of this Roman Catholic nation's large Muslim minority.

Officials said it would pave the way for the creation of a Muslim autonomous region in the area within three years. Philippine Catholic Church bishops Monday called on the government to defer the signing of the accord to give way to more public consultations.

"If the peace process is a journey of 400 steps, we are already at the 399th step and we cannot afford to take it back to square one without suffering dire consequences to national development and nation-building," Mr. Ramos said.

The president, a former general who saw combat in the Korean War, said at a news conference that he had told Mindanao protesters they were welcome to throw tomatoes at him, so long as they did not desecrate the Philippine flag.

Local officials have threatened to display at public places an inverted flag, to signify war, to

## Pol Pot reported in north of Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Secretive Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot is believed to be living in the northern Cambodian rebel stronghold of Anlong Veng, Cambodian and Thai security sources said Wednesday.

"He's in Anlong Veng with Ta Mok," said a senior Cambodian Interior Ministry official. Ta Mok is Khmer Rouge commander of the rebels' northern zone.

"A few weeks ago we know (Pol Pot) was sick, but now we don't know," the official said, citing intelligence sources.

Other senior government sources were unable to confirm the whereabouts of Pol Pot. Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Ke Kim Yan told Reuters: "How do we know where Pol Pot is living? We really don't know."

The 68-year-old guerrilla commander, whose 1975-79 rule in Cambodia killed more than one million people, has not been seen by independent observers since shortly after Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in late 1978 and the subsequent defeat of his government.

Rumours that Pol Pot had died of malaria surfaced in Phnom Penh and along the Thai-Cambodian frontier in early June.

Cambodian leaders, Thai security sources and Khmer Rouge members all said later he was still alive.

A Thai security source said Wednesday that Pol Pot was last known to be in northern Cambodia.

"He was last known to be near the An Mah Pass along with Ta Mok in May," the Thai source said, referring to an area in northern Cambodia's Preah Vihear province, near a crossing point on the border with Thailand.

Ta Mok, known as "the butcher" because of his brutality during the Khmer Rouge rule, lost a leg to a mine in the early 1980s. He still commands Khmer Rouge forces across the

northern zone of the country from his headquarters at Anlong Veng near the Thai border.

"Pol Pot is still the chief of the five Khmer Rouge Tigers," the Thai source told Reuters in Bangkok, he was referring to, along with Pol Pot, the four most senior Khmer Rouge leaders — Ta Mok, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan and Son Sen.

A Khmer Rouge officer told Reuters in the rebels' western stronghold of Pailin last month that Pol Pot was travelling from base to base giving moral support to his troops.

He had last been in Pailin in March when he appeared to be healthy, the officer said.

The Maoist rebels, who battled Vietnam's army of occupation and the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government through the 1980s, rejected a 1993 election organised by the United Nations and have continued a low-level guerrilla war against the government.

Government forces launch regular dry-season offensives against the guerrillas but have been unable to deal them a decisive blow.

Khmer Rouge sources in Pailin said many rebel officers were losing heart, and one officer said he expected the war to continue for just one more year.

## N. Zealand to promote hot volcano as tourist draw

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's tourism minister said Wednesday the country should promote its erupting Mount Ruapehu volcano as a major world attraction, but offered little comfort to ski operators facing big losses.

"It's a fantastic tourism attraction here... and we and the tourism board are promoting it across the world as something incredible to see and to witness," said Tourism Minister John Banks after flying over the volcano.

Scientists said the mountain had calmed down since Monday, when it belched incandescent rocks as big as 10 metres (30 feet) across. But they said more lava was rising.

"That's the sort of thing that will probably lead to further eruptions later on," volcanologist Brad Scott said.

He reported small explosions and weak emissions of ash, adding volcanic gases were likely to produce mild acid rain in central North Island regions.

The Civil Defence Ministry said people in the area could suffer minor discomforts such as eye and skin irritations.

Mr. Banks said after visiting the region that the government would not bail out businesses and ski resort operators who have seen the start of their season wrecked.

"The ski slopes looked like a moonscape, flying over them this morning. That's part of the tourism attraction, as far as the volcano is concerned, but it's not helpful for those people who are in the ski industry," he said.

"If the ski season is lost, it will be devastating for 30 per cent of the businesses here, and I'm not sure how we can help," Mr. Banks added.

"What I don't have for them (local businesses) is a chequebook on behalf of you and the rest of the taxpayers across the country to bail out business here, because these people don't want that. They're very positive, upbeat people but they're going through quite painful times."

Potential losses are estimated at tens of millions of dollars.

The manager of the Turoa ski area said seasonal workers who make up about half of his 120-strong workforce had been laid off, and would only be rehired if the slopes reopened.



New Zealand Minister for Tourism John Banks stands on the crater rim of Mount Ruapehu Wednesday (Reuters photo)

inquiries from sheep and cattle farmers wanting to sell their properties in a "knee-jerk" reaction to the latest eruption.

Mr. Banks said he would talk to the tourism board, which has previously feared the volcano could scare visitors away from New Zealand, about ways to sell it as an attraction.



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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 Founded 1978  
 Jordan Press Foundation  
 P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.  
 Telephone: 684311, 699634  
 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## When the posturing ends...

IN THE knowledge that the U.S. president and his administration were not going to change either the form or substance of their relationship with the Israelis until well into next year, when a re-elected Bill Clinton will be free of electoral constraints, "Bibi" Netanyahu found it opportune to use his stay in Washington to dispense free propaganda. It would be truly unfortunate if the Americans, or anybody for that matter, took his recipes for peace in the Middle East too seriously.

It is all right if the new Israeli prime minister would have Arah children educated to "accept and learn to live with (Israeli) children... (and be) taught that Israel is an integral, legitimate part of the (Middle East) region..." But try to sell his words of wisdom to the children of Hebron and the other Palestinian cities and villages that remain under Israeli control or enclosure, and their eyes will tell you that they are in no mood to be lectured on peace while their parents cannot provide food and adequate means of life for them. Netanyahu would be taken infinitely more seriously if he ordered a lifting of the closure against Gaza and the West Bank, just as in fact his military people have been advising him, and he knows it.

Likewise with the golden words in his favourite caveat "peace with security" Netanyahu, when he has had the chance to settle and show his true colours in the aftermath of his dizzying electoral victory, will recall with passion the words that President Clinton used in their joint press conference on Tuesday: "Peace without security is impossible, and... security without peace cannot be achieved."

While we wholeheartedly agree with Netanyahu that "those who are on the side of peace must show complete dedication to the fight against terrorism," he should give more thought to the questions of which comes first, peace or security, and what breeds violence. If it is to the Palestine National Authority that the prime minister is directing his speech, he might want to read what one respected and neutral magazine, The Economist, has written about the subject: "... it is unlikely that Mr. Arafat would do anything to unravel the web of alliances that bind Israel's security forces to his own. These, after all, give him his main leverage on the Israeli government. His dilemma is that the more he wins the trust of Israel, the less he is trusted by some of his own people in the West Bank and Gaza. The authority is already under fire from human-rights organisations — both international and Palestinian — for its trampling on civil liberties."

But if it is Syria that Netanyahu had in mind when he spoke his words, then he should realise that the exchange of land-for-peace is a sine qua non for continuing negotiations to solve all outstanding problems between the two countries. President Clinton was clear in stressing the need for a comprehensive peace which certainly has to include Syria and Lebanon.

Propaganda and posturing apart, we hope that all people of goodwill, and there is no shortage of them around, will ultimately convince the Israeli leader that for peace to be attained concessions and sacrifices have to be made by all parties. Israel under Netanyahu, in particular, has some distance to cover in this context.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the United States, a writer for Al Ra'i said that the Likud leader aims at achieving two things: convince President Clinton of his ideas of fighting terrorism and seek the Zionist lobby's help to retain the present balance in relations between the United States and the Jewish state. Sultan Al Hattab said that Mr. Netanyahu and the Zionist lobby realise that Mr. Clinton is in need of the Jewish votes to support his election for a new term in office in November and therefore they are most likely to exercise pressure on the Clinton administration to adopt the Likud's views.

A WRITER for Al Dostour wished the Turkish Islamist prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, success in implementing his government's plans of improving relations with the Arab and Islamic countries and Arab rights in Jerusalem. Mohammad Kawash noted that Erbakan who won the leadership through the ballot has promised to improve ties with Syria and resolve the dispute over river water sharing; the Arabs sincerely hope that he will pursue this very logic, reasonable and wise approach in order to protect the interests of his country and respect those of Turkey's neighbours too.

## The View from Academia

# Our institutions and our quality personnel

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

MANY OF those in charge at various public institutions and establishments complain that the business they conduct is not being carried out to their liking because they do not have at their disposal enough qualified personnel to rely on. This is both true and false — more false than true, though.

I believe that we have to admit, on the one hand, that our public institutions and establishments, due to reasons which we well know, are packed with incompetent, inefficient, mediocre and non-committed individuals. This is a reality which many of those in charge are faced with when they take charge. We also have to admit that quality in our society at large is not to be found in abundance. So it is true that if I were in charge, I would have a hard time finding quality applicants to choose from. It may also be true that the authority or power of those in charge, when it comes to hiring, firing, reforming, shaping and reshaping those under them, is somewhat limited and restricted. I have heard it from many directors and heads of departments, hundreds of times: "I cannot fire even a secretary or a janitor." We understand.

The matter is not all that easy, however. Quality does exist in our society and it does find its way to our institutions. Our own universities, and those abroad, do provide us annually with exceptional, outstanding and excellent graduates in a variety of fields and disciplines. Many of them are ready to plunge immediately in the life of the institution and contribute effectively, and many are fast learners and easy to train. I would say that about 20 per cent of our university graduates are supremely well-rounded individuals and that another 20 per cent have the potential, with encouragement and guidance, to be so. Forty per cent is an excellent figure. So, where is the problem?

The way I see it, the problem is two-pronged. One has to do with the process of screening and selection. The situation may vary slightly from one establishment or institution to another, but the overall picture is essentially the same. When such establishments or institutions hire people, we do not get the impression, judging from what we see with our eyes and know for a fact, that they make it a point to hire quality applicants. For one thing, there are no

serious tests and interviews and there is no vigorous examination or perusal of the applicant's case history. The hiring process is in most cases routine, symbolic and exaggeratedly bureaucratic — i.e. it is extremely inefficient and indiscriminate. In some cases, those in charge bow (willingly or unwillingly) to pressures, favours and obliging gestures of sorts.

The other has to do with the fact that there is no search for quality. Most of those who hire sit in the comfort of their offices expecting quality to knock at the door and beg to be hired. Should not those in charge reach out, seek and search for quality? Why do we have to confine ourselves to ads and to the applications we receive? One often questions and doubts even the intention of our institutions to hire quality. We cannot talk about the need for quality in the absence of procedures tailored to spot and attract quality, seriously.

The second part of the problem is that when our institutions or establishments get qualified people, they do not know how to keep them. This is a big problem at our establishments today. Many of those quality graduates who happen to apply and are employed do not last long. They come full of enthusiasm and the desire to do things right. They have taken literally the ideals we have tried to communicate to them through our educational institutions, history books, novels, movies and the media, and come fully ready to work hard, do things right and excel. Slowly but steadily, and almost systematically, they find themselves being kicked with insupportable, unnecessary bureaucratic procedures, derision from their fellow employees, rude comments and insults from those in charge (who are complaining about the absence of quality people in their institutions). Bang, hang, hang, right under the belt, day after day. What do you do? Well, you do not have much to lose. You are young, idealistic, have guts, unmarried, many of your friends at other institutions are quitting, so, you quit. It would be interesting to conduct a study about how many of our quality graduates quit work the first few months or the first couple of years.

The failure then is essentially that of the institution itself, represented (of course) by those in charge, and not of society, or of our individuals. It is they who fail to hire well and to keep those they hire well by chance.

What is to be done? Well, three things. First of all, we have to take the act of hiring seriously — through real tests, real interviews, a careful perusal of educational and/or professional background. And we should learn to seek quality applicants, through the formation of search committees whose sole job is to headhunt, spot and attract excellent individuals or those who have the potential to excel.

Second, our institutions need to learn how to deal with quality employees. Such persons must be noticed, appreciated and fully encouraged and supported. Special attention is to be paid to the recently hired. Some serious orientation for them is needed. They need to be informed, through debate and dialogue, that the real world is somewhat different from what they have had in mind, and that it is through patience, hard work and effort they will have to put into the institution that the picture will improve. There is a battle to be fought, and they are to be the heroes.

Third, we need to choose carefully those who head our institutions or establishments and their various departments and sections. We need to have in charge people who know how to deal with their employees. I say to those who keep saying that they are unable to "fire a secretary or a janitor" that they miss the whole point. The question is not of firing, dismissing or punishing, but of seriousness in performance, firmness and justice in treatment, sensitivity to the feelings of others, diplomacy, inspiration by example. A boss who believes firing is the way, is like a father or a teacher who believes that reform can only be brought about through screaming, swearing, threats and physical punishment.

I do not know whether it was by chance or what, but last week I met five former students of mine (all of excellent calibre) who are dying to quit their jobs from institutions which look extremely attractive from the outside but hellish from the inside.

We have quality, folks, but let us learn how to spot it, attract it, nourish it and keep it.

# Goals to make the common world more liveable

By J. Brian Atwood

WASHINGTON — At the recent annual meeting of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, in Paris, the world's donor nations adopted a far-reaching set of goals for the next two decades. If they are achieved, a world that is likely to have at least 2 billion more inhabitants by the year 2015 will be infinitely more liveable.

The world's development professionals based their ambitious objectives in part on the success of foreign aid over the past 50 years. If it was possible to expand the global economy tenfold, raise literacy rates by a third, create the "green revolution" to feed millions, double the percentage of people with access to clean drinking water, lower infant mortality by half and increase the average age of human beings from 44 years to 62, why not strive for similar improvements in the future?

The new goals link the economic and foreign policy interests of the industrial nations to the compelling needs of the developing world. They call for a one-half reduction in extreme poverty by increasing the living standards of the approximately 1.3 billion people who live on one dollar a day or less.

Universal primary school education, family planning services for all who want them, the empowerment of women through education and equal access to political and economic resources, and the implementation of strategies for environmental sustainability are goals previously adopted at U.N. conferences. Their realisation will dramatically increase the productive capacity of societies while preserving vital natural resources. This will in turn create new markets and contribute to global stability by preventing crisis.

"Increased prosperity in the developing countries demonstrably expands markets for the goods and services of the industrialised countries," the report asserts, with much supportive evidence. The new consumers are the middle classes of the emerging markets that benefited so much from the development efforts of the last generation. The question is whether anyone is our resource-strapped capital cities is listening.

It is not enough for

development ministers to agree on goals for the future. Executives, parliamentarians, journalists and citizens will have to focus more clearly on these issues as well. Budget battles and increased spending for crises have forced reductions of about eight per cent in worldwide official development assistance in each of the past two calendar years.

The United States, now in the midst of a far too successful "structural adjustment" of its deficit-plagued economy, may be poised to shake off its donor fatigue. The U.S. deficit has been reduced by half, and at 2.3 per cent of GDP in 1995 is one of the lowest in the industrial world. The economy is growing steadily, inflation remains under control and employment is at an enviable 5.5 per cent. Equally important, Americans are beginning to realise that success in the international trade sector has helped produce this healthy state.

The trade sector accounts for only 26 per cent of U.S. GDP, but its size has doubled in a decade, with exports increasing rapidly and accounting for many of the new high-wage jobs in the U.S. economy. Businesses are anxious to exploit the dynamic markets of the developing world, where most of America's export growth is occurring.

At a time when international engagement through an effective foreign assistance programme could open doors and create demand for exports, the United States has reduced its programme significantly. In the last decade the U.S. development assistance budget has been cut by half, in real terms.

Two years ago America fell behind Japan as the world's largest donor in absolute terms. France and Germany are close to matching the total dollar amounts contributed by the United States, while they continue to contribute a significantly larger portion of their countries' overall GNP.

If America is to be successful in expanding its trade sector, it must expand its investment to develop new markets as it has done so well in the past 50 years. Japan and countries like France and Germany are to be commended for their commitment to global economic growth and stability, but they are also serving their national interests.

With the Marshall Plan,

the United States pioneered the notion that a nation could do well by doing

good: It is time again to put that principle into practice.

The writer is an administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

## LETTERS

### The ball in Israeli court

To the Editor:

As if by fate, accident or facts of history Benjamin Netanyahu is now the prime minister of Israel, for better or for worse.

We, in the Arab World, as well as all the peace-loving people of the world, are duly concerned. Benjamin Netanyahu comes to office rattling the four "nos": No to Jerusalem, no to a Palestinian state, no retreat from the Golan, no end to settler development. I believe that if Mr. Netanyahu had his wish, the peace process would collapse and with it the dreams of economic prosperity, political security and social stability for Arabs and Jews alike.

My own view is that the Netanyahu of Israel cannot hurt us anymore. We have reached the end of our tether. Sniffing has become second nature to us. Plans to hurt us more will doubly damage Israeli hopes to live in peace and security with their neighbours.

The Arab leaders meeting in Cairo were quite right to issue words of caution about the election of Mr. Netanyahu. They were right in pointing out to the world that his actions would endanger peace, frustrate the effort towards normalisation and fatally wound the future. But Mr. Netanyahu is not all powerful, and the Israel he represents by a majority of one per cent is not beyond the damage that his repudiation of peace would cause.

In the message that should be served back to Netanyahu, we should opt to transform his four "Nos" into many "Yes" of sorts. We will say yes to peace, yes to the inalienable rights and dreams of the Palestinians to a state of their own, with Jerusalem as its capital, yes to a negotiated peace to evacuate the Golan Heights, yes to a negotiated peace to evacuate the occupied Lebanese territories. And we say yes to the end of nuclear threats and the cold war, yes to the future of peace in the Holy Land, even if Mr. Netanyahu and his cabal choose to be left behind.

We should also turn the tables on the Israel of Mr. Netanyahu. For many years now, it is we in the Arab World who have shown that we want peace. Our repeated efforts were called "confidence building measures." To start with, the Palestinians had to acknowledge Israel's existence. That was done. Then they had to agree to help protect Israel. That was also done. Then they had to agree to defer a final settlement of their claims, notwithstanding the international legality of the U.N. resolutions in their favour. Then the Palestinians had to acquiesce to their being characterised as being either/or displaced refugees, expatriates, personae non-grata and even prisoners of the Israeli authorities. Then they had to cross out the words in the covenant that threatened Israel. So that was done too.

It is time now that Mr. Netanyahu's Israel takes its own "confidence building measures."

Does Israel want peace? If peace is desired, then the new prime minister can show that by having direct talks with Yasser Arafat and all the other concerned Arab leaders.

Does Mr. Netanyahu believe in the economic prosperity of the region as a whole? If so, then Israel, which has \$15,000 per capita income, should be the one taking the lead with plans of economic cooperation and integration with its hard-pressed neighbours.

Does Mr. Netanyahu want to combat Islamic extremism? Then let him go to the world and procure funds for his new neighbours, to help them eradicate the hotbeds of illiteracy and poverty that breed hatred.

Does he really want to live in peace? Then we must tell him to declare peace openly, honestly, and for all the world to hear, without preconditions, qualifications or hesitation. Just as we have done.

Deep in their heart the Israeli people know that we are the injured party. And since suffering has become a second nature, it is not for us to be supplicants. Nor can we be called upon to assure others of our good intentions.

Now it is the time to stop worrying about what Mr. Netanyahu is going to do next.

If he chooses to lead his people against their will to the life of impunity, this is solely his choice, not ours, neither that of the world Jewry. And certainly not that of the peace-loving people of the world.

Since the leaders of the Arab World can do no more than what they have already done, the choice to be made and its accompanying price should be left on Mr. Netanyahu's shoulders.

Ludwig W. Tamari, Amman.

### Thanks for the thought

To the Editor:

HOW PLEASED I was to find "On record" has survived and Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen has surfaced to fight again the McDonalds and Bold and Beautiful of this world; for change is inevitable and all we can do is try and make it better rather than otherwise.

His past efforts have not been wasted. He has brought pleasure to many people, as to myself, I am sure.

Living in Aqaba, may I also stand beside Alia Toukan, Dana Toukan and the Media Committee for the Protection of Our Cultural and Natural Heritage. Being a regular walker and swimmer along the south shore of Aqaba, meeting and talking to local and international visitors who praise its individual nature and antiquity, it would be sad indeed to see it turned into a concrete jungle.

I feel sure that if Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen lived here, he would think the same.

Paul Saint, 48, Prince Mohammad Street, P.O. Box 1370, Aqaba.

### Original is better

To the Editor:

The views of many columnists and writers in Jordanian newspapers are very important since they contribute to shaping public opinion and influence the decision-making process. That is when they are original and their own.

When, nevertheless, the writers turn into official spokespeople for this or that government establishment, they lose credibility and their readers' interest.

It is the journalists' right to express their views, but it is not their job to become mouthpieces for the government. The government can surely take care of its own media image, without their help.

Walid Said, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## Calling

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THE LADDER: Promot ... week at the ... Deputy Permanent ... Mission to the ... under former ... He was responsible ... of a special polit ... affairs. As a ... one week. Mea ... changes at the ...

## French lea of love — 1

By Michael Thurston, Agence France Presse  
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 ... English girls, above all take th ... Then pounce. "Do you like Eng ... she asks politely over dinner. "I b ...  
 ... So why have you come



Friday, July 11-12, 1995  
By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoub  
personnel

# Weekender



Jordan Times, Thursday, July 11, 1995 **A**

## Society on the Move

### Calling in the 'big guns' to discuss security, development

Some prominent Middle East experts gathered in Amman last week at the initiative of HRH Crown Prince Hassan to create a forum, or as the Crown Prince puts it "a commission of wise persons." The concept was in the making for several years and sprang from the Brandt Commission, named after former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt. So last week more than 30 scholars, industrialists, and political figures from Europe, the U.S., Israel, Egypt and Jordan got together in what is stressed as an informal setting at the Royal Court and formed Terra Media (middle ground) International Forum for Stability and Development. The forum has no formal structure in that officers have not been named, and ideas of where to base Terra Media are being bounced around. In addition, the forum membership will not be a strict membership per se, but rather encourage a fluid composition. The idea, says a source close to the organization of the forum, is to become informed and inform in a setting of experienced, sagacious, and concerned men and women, and thus hope for a rippling effect that would work towards a stable and developing Middle East and even beyond. The group wasted no time and began to delve into problems facing the Middle East. One topic of discussion was the confidence of the region in itself and the confidence of the international community in the region. Topping the list of those invited to participate was former U.S. Secretary of State and champion of "shuttle diplomacy" between Egypt and Israel, and Syria and Israel in the Nixon and Ford administrations Henry Kissinger. Other prominent figures involved in the discussions and presenting papers were former U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy at the Department of Defense Richard Perle, now resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, former Israeli Minister of Economics and Planning Yossi Beilin, Advisor to Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu Dore Gold, Israeli Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel, Egyptian sociologist and Director of the Ibn Khaldoun Centre for Strategic Studies in Cairo Saadeddin Ibrahim, and from Jordan, former Minister of Finance Jawad Anani, former peace talks negotiator and water expert Munther Haddadin and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Michel Marto. The forum aims for a mix of academia and practical experience. Participants arrived at a general consensus that they would meet annually and resolved to follow a mechanism for dialogue on such subjects as the Conference for Security and Cooperation in the Middle East (CSCME), setting up an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-type institution for the Middle East, and extending inter-faith dialogue to encompass dialogues between cultures and followers of several different faiths.

not expected any time soon.

**GUESS WHO GOT THE JOB?** An appointment that came as somewhat of a surprise was that of former secretary to the Prime Minister Mahmoud Nouruddin as the new director of Al Hussein Youth City, succeeding Issam Arida who was appointed secretary general of the Ministry of Youth. Prior to his job at the prime ministry, Mr. Nouruddin served as director of the office of the Public Security Directorate chief. Former colleagues say he is an active fellow. That, we would have expected. Taking Mr. Nouruddin's place at the prime ministry is Manar Dabbas, a protocol officer seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Dabbas obtained a masters in international relations from the University of Jordan. He was actually scheduled to leave for an assignment in Geneva as the Jordan representative to various U.N. organisations there, but was plucked by the prime ministry in the nick of time. The 25-year-old Mr. Dabbas has been with the foreign ministry for four years since he graduated from university. He is now responsible for the hefty task of making the Prime Minister's appointments.

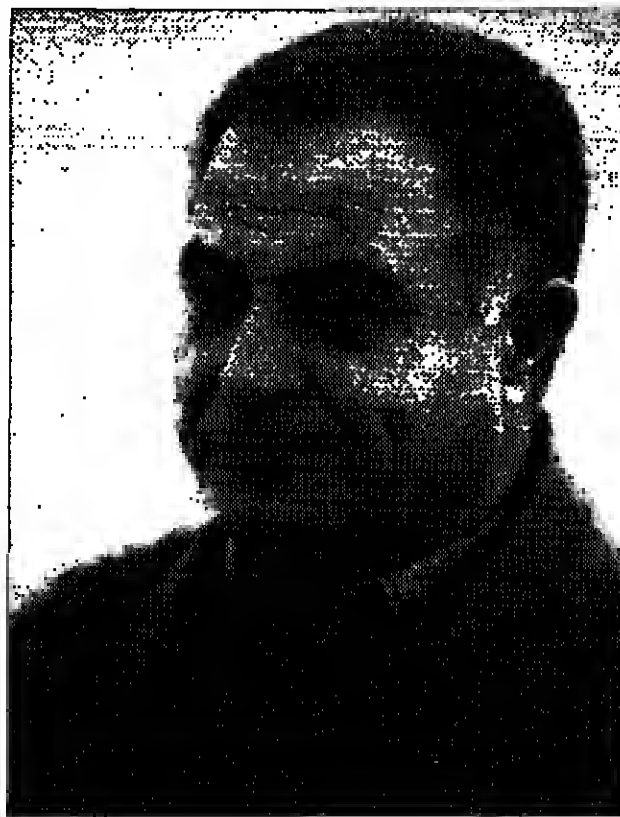
**MONEY IS THE OBJECT:** With JD 171 million in assets and JD 15.9 million in shareholders equity, the Arab Banking Corporation/Jordan (ABC/J) threw an outdoor bash for more than 1,500 of its clients and friends last week at its new headquarters. ABC/J came into being after it acquired the financially troubled Jordan Securities Corp. in 1990 whose majority share was then held by the Housing Bank. It was actually the first spread of ABC/Jahrain, the parent bank and the largest private bank in the Arab World, into the region. ABC/Jahrain owns nearly 60 per cent of ABC/J. The new modern premises in Shmeisani, just a convenient five-minute stroll from the Housing Bank Complex, was opened for business at the end of May. As a commercial and investment bank, ABC/J is the first Jordanian bank to offer this form of combination services known in banking terms as "comprehensive banking." The Jordan institution is chaired by Abdul Wahab Al Tammar, who was once governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait. Its deputy chairman and general manager is Jawad Hadid, who was previously general manager of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank. ABC/J has 17 branches in Jordan, including the Greater Amman area, Irbid, Zarqa and Salt, and plans to open an Aqaba branch by year's end. ABC/Jahrain has representative offices in Cairo, Casablanca, and Tripoli, a branch in Tunis and sister institutions and affiliates in London and Paris. The parent bank is also planning to branch into the West Bank, starting with Ramallah.

Information Marwan Muasher and several of his colleagues and tens more of public personalities and journalists. Meanwhile, if it were a case of adding fuel to the fire, you might wonder about a new weekly paper which has just sprung up. All we can tell you is that by the sound of its name, readers could be in for fervour of a sort. It has been dubbed Abbed Rabbo (Slave Of His Own God). The new weekly, is published in Arabic, by the Farid for Publishing.

**FAR EAST EXPEDITION:** Japan welcomed 10 young Jordanians who left Monday for Tokyo to participate in an international youth exchange programme. The four women and six men will join participants from 16 other countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, South Africa and the U.S. The only other Arab country in this summer's programme is Egypt. According to the Japanese embassy in Amman, the participants will be joined by Japanese youth in various activities such as "industrial and cultural experiences" and stay with Japanese families. There is even a camping trip on the agenda. The ten participants from Jordan are: Yahyah Khawaldeh, head of the Directorate of Madaba Youth; Awn Arida, who just graduated University of Jordan with a degree in Agriculture; Mohammed Mahasneh, a law trainee; Ghassan Kassab, a graduate of Yarmouk University; Shadi Maqaddi, a student at Zeina University; Yezan Abu Hassan, a student at Applied Sciences University; Manal Mdanat, a typist at the Ministry of Youth; Iman Asaf, a library attendant at Zarqa College; Maha Habashneh, a former swimming coach, and Maram Haddad, a student at Al Isra University. Before leaving on their long journey, the young folks met with Ambassador Takayuki Kimura who tipped them off on what and what not to expect.

**SABAH AL KHEIR VIETNAM:** No longer President of the Jordan Press Association, (JPA) Suleiman Qudah, chief editor of Al Rai Arabic daily, headed on his own Far East adventure in his capacity as president of the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ). He was invited by the IOJ to attend ceremonies on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation. The event is being held in Hanoi. Departing right after the JPA elections, Mr. Qudah would not have known that following the elections, JPA members attempted to fax their colleagues to congratulate them on their win, only to find that the electricity at the press association's offices had been cut by the electricity company for non-payment of their energy bills.

**LOOK TO THE GARDENS:** If the summer has got you down you might consider keeping an eye out for public garden events planned by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi. On his "entertain the community" agenda are three categories of happenings: concerts, mini-concerts, and children's plays. We missed the first concert last month, which drew about 700 people. While most attendees have been officially invited, the organisers are said to be comfortable with strollers-by entering the area and enjoying some evening-filled music. Tonight, for example, Dr. Abbadi has sent invitations to about 1,000 guests for a concert presented by



Mamdouh Abbadi

the Jordanian Armed Forces Band under the baton of Lieutenant Sabri Maa'ni. The conductor, you may recognise also as one of the musicians who accompanied Tunisian singer Sophia Saddek in the song "Ya Ibn Al Nebi," made popular when His Majesty King Hussein returned in 1992 to Jordan from successful surgery in the U.S. The concert will be held at the garden near Maydan Al Ameer Abdullah, behind the Prime Ministry in Jabal Amman. While Dr. Abbadi's invitation was co-sent with Mrs. Abbadi, we have since learned that she will not be able to make tonight's event. But many more are planned four weeks apart, plus the mini recitals and a children's play in two weeks at Prince Ali Theatre in Shmeisani.

**N.B.** The heat wave may well be blamed for a slip-up by a source of the Israeli embassy in Amman in last week's Society on the Move. "In introducing the embassy's first fully-fledged commercial attaché, Shaul Sasson, we were told that during part of the period preceding Mr. Sasson's appointment, Sami Ofri was in charge of commercial dealings on a part-time basis. We have since learned that it was Eynat Michael-Schlein who carried the load while conducting her own responsibilities as economic and political secretary. And in another item, published Tuesday in the Jordan Times and entitled "Israeli embassy to improve visa application process..." a statement that the embassy had moved its visa application section to the lower level of the Forte Grand nightclub. Jugglers, gave the management of the popular club the shivers. To put all fears to rest, Jugglers is still open for business. Why do you think they call it "nightclub?"

Jennifer Hamarneh

### French learn language of love — from a book

By Michael Thurston  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — The nervous young Frenchman sidles up to the cute American girl. "You're roller-blading like a goddess," he mumbles. "Do you have a boyfriend?"

"What a trite compliment. Everybody here knows how to rollerblade," comes the terse reply. "Anyway, I don't like men."

Or at least, that's how the dialogue might go if the couple have been reading a new book of international chat-up lines, aimed at French lovers seeking conquests in foreign parts.

Pour Un Flirt details amorous gambits, translated into the local language, for Frenchmen travelling anywhere from New York to Budapest and London to Havana.

In fact America comes way down the list of destinations. Recommended for would-be French Romeos, "Flirting in the U.S. will not be easy," it warns at the start of the chapter on the United States.

"You will have to have your wits about you constantly, and do everything to hide your natural machismo," it says.

For better prospects, Britain comes top of the league as a chat-up destination. "England is above all the flirting favourite for young Frenchmen," opine the authors.

"For generations they have been crossing the channel shouting: 'Let us at those little English girls!'"

In England the gambit must be much more understated. "Hello, how are you?" is the original recommended opener. "I'm French and I love England, even when it's rainy or foggy," continues the repartee.

With English girls, above all take things slowly. The pounce. "Do you like English food," she asks politely over dinner. "I hate it," he groans. "So why have you come to

Great Britain?"

"To meet you."

The book, which so far only covers Europe and the Americas, offers strategies for love for countries from Albania to ex-Yugoslavia as well as the more obvious Italy and Greece.

In Tirana, hopeful lovers are reminded that they are in what was until recently "the last European bastion of di-hard communism... you will need tact, patience and time."

"If you can, try it on with a student rather than a traditional girl. And don't hesitate to beat a retreat if fathers and brothers start getting too close."

In Turkey the girls are "warm and curious about our customs... but don't kid yourself: They may enjoy talking but you'll need a lot of patience to win the jewels in the crown."

Cuban girls apparently hardly need any dialogue.

"Breathtakingly beautiful, they have rhythm in their skin and revolution in their head. Their heart is hot, even torrid."

Suggested initial chat-up lines in a Havana bar include "do you smoke after making love?"

One of the most hopeful destinations for globetrotting casanovas, the guide says, is ex-Yugoslavia.

"Hurry up, the girls are waiting for you!" it exhorts breathlessly. "For them you are the symbol of the return of peace. It's up to you to melt the snow."

The publishers of the French flirting bible are enthusiastic about their achievement. "Love has no barriers except those of language. They are now banished with this universal guide to flirting."

The rest of the world's women watch out: Editions covering the Middle East and Asia are planned later this year.

### Beyond Polarisation

Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: Religion and Politics in the Middle East  
By Fred Halliday  
London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 1996, 255 pages, £12.95

"THERE ARE no special nations, no eternal missions, no mysterious unknowable humans, no particular demons," says Fred Halliday in *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* (p. 196). Thus, there is no intrinsic reason for "a clash of civilisations" — that inevitable confrontation between Islam and the West which has been postulated by Samuel Huntington, Western right-wing politicians and some Islamists as well. Instead, Halliday proposes to "go beyond this unnecessarily polarised and in some ways methodologically impoverished debate and continue with the job of studying these (Muslim) societies" (p. 217).

Halliday is professor of international relations at the London School of Economics. Having spent several decades researching and writing about the Middle East, he rejects the notion that the politics and behaviour of Muslim countries can be chiefly explained by reference to Islam as a religion. In terms of "Islam as a social and political system," he denies that this exists as a uniform bloc. Rather, the power structures and socio-economic realities of each country must be analysed.

The Middle East is not, as often claimed, a unique case, says Halliday, who stresses its parallels to other parts of the Third World. Considered an expert on Iran, Halliday compares the 1979 revolution there to other urban-based populist movements arising in the context of rapidly imposed socio-economic change — Peronism in Argentina, Getulism in Brazil and right-wing Hindu trends in India. The Iranian revolution "had an Islamic ideological character, yet it cannot be explained by Islam any more than an abstracted Christianity can explain the peas-

ant movements of Germany in the early sixteenth century" (p. 31).

By denying the singularity of the Middle East, the author sets himself apart from orientalist and Arab nationalists alike: "No one could be more 'orientalist' than the Arab nationalist vaunting the uniqueness and specificity of the 'Arabs', and arguing that the forms of oppression found elsewhere — based on class, gender or ethnicity — do not operate in the Arab World" (p. 13). Post-modernists and, to a lesser extent, Edward Said also draw criticism for their exclusive focus on the world of ideas, discourse, language and literature, which Halliday sees as "a flight from serious social analysis" (p. 207).

Most controversial for Jordanian readers may be the chapter on the Gulf War. Though assuming a neutral tone, Halliday actually justifies the attack on Iraq. He points out that the U.S. administration did some arm-twisting to amass the anti-Iraq coalition at the U.N., but generally presents its intentions as remarkably benign. At times, this flies in the face of facts, as when he discounts economic motives for the war, asserting: "There is little evidence that Washington gained anything, beyond the \$55 billion in cash to pay for the war itself..." (p. 80). Yet it is known that U.S. oil companies profited from the war; U.S. firms got the lion's share of the contracts for rebuilding Kuwait; and it was hoped that flagging arms industries would be revitalised as existing weapons stocks were deminished. The fact that the war did not resolve the U.S.' economic problems does not mean that it was not intended to do so.

Another chapter full of controversy is that on human rights and Islam, but in this case, Halliday's analysis merits serious consideration. He ascribes human rights violations in the Middle East to dictatorial states, rather than to any particular religion. Yet upholding human rights and democracy has cultural pre-requisites, involving respect for the indi-

### BOOK REVIEW

vidual citizen, tolerance of dissent and a general respect for the rule of law.

These pre-requisites may be compromised by "authoritarian, patriarchal, obscurantist interpretations (of the Quran) that currently prevail..." (p. 156). In Halliday's view, efforts at modern, liberal interpretation of the Quran, while laudable, miss the point, for human rights can only be guaranteed by secularism-separation of religion from the state and coercion. Here his thoughts intersect with those of the Moroccan scholar and Muslim, Fatima Mernissi, who writes that "American secular humanism was developed not so much against religion as against state interference in religion and especially manipulation of it... Preaching tolerance and freedom of thought, secular humanism is an attack not on God but on government officialdom and a ban on its use of government funds and institutions to propagate religion, any religion" (Islam and Democracy, 1992, p. 45).

Sally Bland

### THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Culture is on the horns of this dilemma: If profound and noble it must remain rare, if common it must become mean.  
— George Santayana, Spanish-born philosopher (1868-1952).

The art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well-gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception.  
— E. V. Lucas, English author and critic (1868-1938).



# Art for art's sake

By Jean-Claude Elias

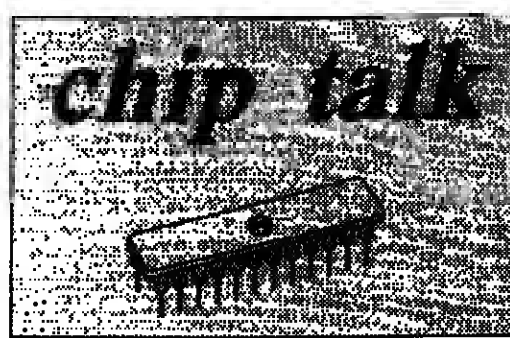
LAST WEEK this column got a certain amount of unfair competition from its own publisher. Indeed, two excellent cartoons, by Glasbergen (The Better Half) that appeared on July 2 and 8 in the 'Economy' page of this newspaper had the now famous Internet computer network for subject.

Being a positive mind I bravely discarded any thought of complaint to the Editor-in-Chief and decided to use them as a source of inspiration instead. In the first one the husband is bragging: "I'm taping a movie from cable, transferring it from my VCR to CD-ROM, uploading it to the Internet and E-mailing it to my brother so he can save \$2 at the video store." In the second one, the husband says: "I've got ten free hours to explore the Internet," and the wife replies: "Explain to me how \$3,000 worth of computer equipment equals 'free'..."

Cartoons, per se, do not require further explanations or comments. They would lose their impact. The very witty captions above however sent me wondering aren't we often reckless when we dive into technology? Don't we rush to do things forgetting to evaluate the eventual benefit versus the cost or the effort?

The answer is a big, giant yes. We know perfectly well that we can hardly refrain from trying, testing, experimenting and above all playing with new techniques. There's an uncontrollable drive that makes most of us absolutely want to use technology. The consequences? The profit? Who cares?

There could be several explanations to such behaviour. First of all new technology makes us feel we're moving forward — a wonderful feeling for any human being. There is also an obvious benefit for our ego. We do not have much opportunities (nor skills I believe) to tame wild horses anymore. But taming technology is second best. Also there could be hidden somewhere in our conscience, the sentiment that by participating in the global trend, we may contribute even in microscopic amounts, to the



advancement of sciences. This too is a wonderful feeling. Whatever the reasons behind our attitude, we know we are doing the right thing. We may not be able to explain why we need a CD-ROM in our computer, but deep inside we know, we are sure that we do need it.

There is no arguing that by using new technology and getting familiar with it our awareness of it will increase. What good will this awareness actually do to us is another question.

If we accept to look at the Internet and related systems as an art, then there is no point asking why we are doing it. Art is for art's sake only. Copying a movie to CD-ROM and downloading it to someone by E-mail may be a form of modern expression. Saving \$2 surely cannot be the reason why someone would do that.

Computer users are spending a substantial part of their leisure time playing with the new communication possibilities that modern machines and networks provide. There must be a good reason for that. It is not money making, since the game is rather a money spending exercise.

The Internet and the CD-ROM may have given us a fantastic tool to communicate with text, sound and images with other people at the other end of the planet, while at the same time safeguarding our beloved privacy, at home or in the office, before our computer's screen. What kind of men will this make of us, our grandchildren may be able to tell.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### HOWLERS

PETER: (quickly): "Fingers."

### FAILURES

\*\*\*

— MAYBE he had the right aim in life, but he's sure run out of ammunition.

— HIS boss keeps telling him, "Your salary raise will become effective just as soon as you do."

— HE batches a lot of ideas — the trouble is, he doesn't hitch them.

— He has always itched for success, but he's never been willing to scratch it.

— HIS motto is "All things come to him who waits." The big problem is he doesn't know what he's waiting for.

— He has always watched the clock, so he's still only one of the hands.

— AT 20 he knew nothing; at 40 he's done nothing; at 60 he'll have nothing.

\*\*\*\*

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

#### TELEGRAMS

\*\* Warmest congratulations on graduation  
Aharrut-tahani bita'kharrojika.

\*\* Pleased to hear of your promotion.  
Emni s'eed be'an asma'a naba'a tarqiyatik.

\*\* Happy birthday to you.  
Atamanna laka cid milad sa'eed.

\*\* Best wishes to you and bride.  
Atyab at-tahani laka wa-le 'aroosik.

\*\* Congratulations on your success.  
Ohan 'ne'oka be'najahik.

\*\* Pleased to be among the first to congratulate you on your election  
Yasorroni an akoonu baynal awal'el allatheena yohan'ne'oonaka bentik'khahek.

\*\* Congratulations on success of operation.  
Ohan'oka benajah al-amaliya.

\*\*\*\*

### JOKES

\* TOMMY was very inattentive. He looked round, turned from one side to the other and sometimes did not listen at all to his father's words. In the end his angry father cried out: "I think that everything I say to you goes in at one ear and out at the other."  
Tommy thought a little and said, "Well, I think that's what I have got two ears for."

\*\*\*

\* LITTLE GIRL: "Grandpa, do you want me to give you a new cup for your birthday?"  
GRANDFATHER: "That's very nice of you, my dear, but I have a cup already."

LITTLE GIRL: "I'm afraid you don't know, but you haven't any cup. Grandpa, I've just broken it!"

\*\*\*

TEACHER: "If you stand with your back to the north and look to the south, what will be on your left hand?"

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

(1) Who sailed in the following ships? — Argo, Golden Hind, Beagle, Hampshire, Bounty, Endeavour, Mayflower, Fram, Revenge, Ark?

(2) What were the four voyages made by Gulliver?

(3) Under what circumstances is it not a crime to kill a man in England in peace time?

(4) Which of the following could properly be used for drawing nails out of wood? — hammer, pincers, pliers, screw-driver, bradawl.

(5) What was a buccaneer? What is the meaning of:  
a) to maroon  
b) to shanghai  
c) to keel-haul  
d) to walk the plank

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

HORSE — As a general guide:

A dream of seeing horses predicts a period of all-around ease. If your dream involved fear of the animal, it signifies worry over the loss of mis-placement of an important document or article of value.

To dream of riding (or sitting on) a horse indicates a coming rise in status, but if you were thrown (or fell off) you will have to cope with a rival who is to thwart you. To be kicked by a horse is a warning against complacency.

A dream of horses fighting in a fore-runner to disturbing news concerning a friend. To dream of a horse being shod is an omen of unexpected money. Cleaning or grooming a horse foretells a lucky speculation. Galloping or racing horses predict swift success.

Seeing a horseshoe in your dream is an omen of general good luck; finding one predicts wealth and/or success beyond your wild expectations!

### PUZZLES

#### EIGHTS

FIFTEEN groups from which you have to make five 8-letter words. The difficulty is using the right groups in the right words and not having groups left which will not make a word. See how you manage.  
In each instance the 2-letter group is the "sandwich."

(A) AGE BAD BAR BAT BE BIT CUE GE GIN  
GLY IN IN RED TE RLY

(B) BUN CH DO ERS ESS GL ING LIS MAR  
MAT NED NER PAR TE TR

(C) BUT CH COM ER ERS IR MU NAL NED PAT  
STA TED TO WAT WY

# Wish you were here

By Samr Ghaleb Bagaeen

IT HAS BEEN quite awhile since there has been so much to do or even so much to hope to do in such a short-period of time.

What am I talking about? Well, let me tell you. Contrasting sharply with our own cities and our own way of life, there are certain cities in this world that never sleep. And quite frankly Madrid is one of these cities.

One reason for this is that because it can get so hot during the day, that the only time to get out and have some fun is during that time after sunset and before sunrise. This is the case in some other parts of Spain as well. And maybe, just maybe, this is why the afternoon siesta is such an important part of the Spanish way of life. For one thing, there is not much to do in the afternoon because everything comes to a halt. Other than that, the heat stops you from thinking about doing anything else.

And if going out at night is not your cup of tea, then you can choose anything from the tens of museums in the city, the expos, the concerts, be they jazz, classical or Flamenco or you can even go to the theatre. Some operas are also being staged but you do have to be quick to secure a ticket.

Besides all this, there are of course the flea markets and the book stalls where you can buy any book you want and at a price which best suits you.

You can also travel around Spain and visit Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla where you would be able to see for



yourself the heritage of your ancestors in this foreign land.

One thing though, all this is by no means intended to be an advertisement for Spain. What it should do though, is highlight the excitement that one can encounter in a place a few hours away from home.

It is away from home. Away from both friends and loved ones. But it is also about meeting people, learning new things and making new friends. It is also about learning to be tolerant and forgiving.

It can be, if you let go, about discovering who you really are and what you really want. This is because having been working for sometime, going back to being just a student studying a foreign language in a foreign country can help you learn more about yourself. It allows you to be both rebellious and daring.

Ay! This is where this has to end. Next stop Granada. Or was it Toledo?

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, July 11, 1996

3:00 Double Dragon  
3:30 N.B.A.  
4:00 Pirates  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Les Polluados  
5:30 Varieties — Le Monde Est A Vous  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Ushuaia  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Documentary  
8:00 Taratata  
9:10 Star Trek  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Feature Film — The Diamond Fleece  
Starring: Ben Cross & Tony Rosata  
Family Aspects

### Monday, July 15, 1996

3:00 Bonkers  
3:30 Richie Rich  
3:45 Play About  
4:10 Olympia  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon  
5:15 Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans  
6:00 Magazine — Thalassa  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Science — Cinq Sur Cinq  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Milner Fenwick  
8:00 Paul McKenna Show  
8:30 Mat Lock  
9:10 100 years of Capitalism in Korea  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful  
11:15 Mancuso FBI

### Friday, July 12, 1996

3:00 Dumb & Dumber  
3:15 Bush School  
4:00 Gillette World Sport  
4:10 Crystal Maze  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Les Polluados  
5:30 Film — Pasteur, Cinq Amies De Rage  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Allo La Terre  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Growing Pains  
8:00 Nasty Boys  
8:45 Secret Weapons  
9:10 The Wanderer  
9:10 News In English  
10:00 Classic Movie — Blindfold  
10:25 Starring: Rock Hudson & Clodia Cardinale

### Tuesday, July 16, 1996

3:00 Iris The Happy Professor  
3:15 Captain Planet  
3:30 Hot Shorts  
4:10 Olympia  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon  
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi  
5:30 Game Show  
6:00 Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Ushuaia  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Blossom  
8:00 Documentary  
8:30 Encounter  
9:10 Star Trek  
10:00 News In English  
10:30 Human Target  
11:15 Hawaii Five-O  
12:45 My Two Wives

### Saturday, July 13, 1996

3:00 Moomin  
3:30 Pumpkin Patch  
3:40 Big Brother Jake  
4:10 Olympia  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon  
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi  
5:30 Game show  
6:00 Serie — Chateau Vallon  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Rever  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Tolkien's  
8:00 Album Show  
8:55 Miami Vice  
9:30 Prism  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful  
11:10 Feature Film — Foul Play  
Starring: Chevy Chase & Dudley Moore

### Wednesday, July 17, 1996

3:00 Flint Stones  
3:30 Iris  
3:45 Bill Nye The Science Guy  
4:10 Olympia  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programmes — Les Polluados  
5:30 Serie — Simenon  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Evening Shade  
8:00 Super Stars Of Action  
8:30 Chancer  
9:10 Hunter  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 The Bold And The Beautiful  
11:15 Bugs

### Sunday, July 14, 1996

3:00 The Mask  
3:30 Bush School  
3:40 Mac & Mutley  
4:10 Olympia  
5:00 News Flash  
5:01 French Programme — Sciences Cartoon  
5:15 Document — La Vie Devant Moi  
5:30 Game Show  
6:00 Magazine — Envoye Special  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Sports et Musique  
7:30 News headlines  
7:35 Cinema, Cinema  
8:00 The American Chart Show  
8:45 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
9:10 Black's Magic  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Culture Legends  
11:15 Short Story Cinema  
11:45 Nelson's Column

By Mahmoud I. Murti

IT HAS NOT often been the case that appropriate tribute has been paid to Arab women artists in the region. Most of that tribute, ample as it may be, is devoted to their pioneering contribution to the modern Arab art.

Attempting to initiate a gradual revival of this tradition, the Baladna Foundation and Gallery for Arab and Islamic Art, is currently hosting a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists in the gallery.

The exhibition, which is being held in the Baladna Foundation and Gallery for Arab and Islamic Art, is a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists in the gallery.

It can be, if you let go, about discovering who you really are and what you really want. This is because having been working for sometime, going back to being just a student studying a foreign language in a foreign country can help you learn more about yourself. It allows you to be both rebellious and daring.

Ay! This is where this has to end. Next stop Granada. Or was it Toledo?

You can also travel around Spain and visit Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla where you would be able to see for

yourself the heritage of your ancestors in this foreign land.

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## A tribute to Arab women artists 10 Arab women artists hold collective exhibition

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

IT HAS NOT often been the case that appropriate tribute has been paid to Arab women artists in the region, nor for that matter, ample recognition of their pioneering contribution to modern abstract art.

Attempting to initiate a gradual remedy of this situation, the Baladna Forum and Gallery for Arts, a non-profit organization, is currently hosting a major collective exhibition of Arab women artists. Gallery director, Suad Issawi Hourani, explains: "The gathering of 25 plastic artists from 10 Arab countries will certainly provide us with a formula for dialogue among [women] artists who have proven their presence in their national arenas and often on inter-Arab and international levels, but they have seldom merged together in one exhibition."

This gathering will provide the opportunity to highlight diversity and richness of the world of Arab women plastic artists. It also brings to the surface the sources of inspiration, the multifaceted cultural and national symbols, and the individual differences that exist in the products of the participants. The gathering will perhaps

reveal the common fabric of the different art works in the various Arab countries and the individual uniqueness of each."

Representing Jordan are Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Mona Saudi, Hind Nasser, Samia Taqtaq Zaru, Ghadah Dahdaleh, Alla Ammoura, Asma Fayoumi and Najwa Annab. Palestine is represented by Tamam Aref Al-Akhal and Samia Halaby.

Iraq is represented by Iman Ali Khaled, Widad Orfaly, and Wasma Shourbaji; Egypt by Reem Hassan, Sana Mahmoud, Evelyn Ashmallah, Jazbiyeh Sirri, Shalabiyeh Ibrahim; Syria by Hala Mahayni, Lujainah Al-Assil, and Laila Nusair; Kuwait by Sorayya Al Baqsmi, Saudi Arabia by Munirah Mousali, Sudan by Kamala Ibrahim; and Oman by Nadirah Mahmoud.

The diversity in the nationalities of the artists is intended to "transcend the local level to the vaster Arab sphere, so as to build further bridges of cooperation and interaction among the various branches of contemporary Arab plastic art," adds the director.

Most of the artists listed have exhibited extensively, locally, regionally and internationally, in both

solo and group exhibitions. Together, they cover various schools of modern art, such as impressionism, expressionism, surrealism, pure abstract, minimalism, the naive-style, installations, and modern sculpture.

The viewer to the exhibit encounters styles so diverse, that it is hard to imagine that all the works belong, nonetheless, to the same broad category of "Plastic Art." A painting by Widad Orfaly, using only blue colour of varying shades, depicts a highly ornate city built around a water-bay. Almost every single building is identical to the other; only the proportions differ. Upon closer scrutiny, the buildings are all domed or have pointed turrets. The upper sky itself is even rendered in the same style; it is comprised of an endless profusion of inverted miniature buildings. Palm trees of every size and persuasion abound, which, coupled with the distinct domed buildings, lends the city a Middle Eastern character of an extremely exaggerated nature. Clearly, such a depiction belongs most typically in a very grandiose and romantic dream that can only be dreamt by someone of the stature of Shehrezade.

Moving on to one of Asma Fayoumi's works, a depiction of a dainty melancholy lady holding a highly

translucent head-scarf set against a background of giant orange and violet lilies, the overall atmosphere is reminiscent of Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid's painting "Divine Protection," especially in the great exaggeration of the size and positioning of the eyes.

Tamam Al-Akhal, wife of prominent Palestinian artist Ismail Shammout, displays a surrealistic painting of a family hugging passionately at the steps of a handsome home overlooking the sea. The tight embrace seems to be one between a mother, father and baby, though it is hard to construe whether this is symbolic of a reunion or a farewell (prior to separation). It could be either, since the main theme of the vast majority of Ms. Akhal's works (as well as those of her husband) is well known for its focus and artistic documentation of the four-decade plight and suffering of the Palestinian people, in the context of which, forced separations of families are just as commonplace as daily encounters that one just takes for granted.

Ghadah Dahdaleh presents an eight-piece set of her very well-known series "Doors and Windows." This collection represents the third generation of works of this particular theme, each time reinvented and reworked to maintain stylis-

tic freshness while retaining the basic, highly original design-ingredients and features that have made these works extremely popular in Jordan and abroad. True enough to the series-title, the necessary inspiration came from the rusty and haggard doors and windows of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, such as the congested and run-down Baqa'a and Wihdat Camps. Interestingly, however, most people who are unfamiliar with the factual background surrounding these works, as well as the theme, tend to associate the general colour-schemes with those of Latin America, specifically of the ancient Aztec, Inca and Mayan cultures. Infinite shades and hues of Sienna-brown, yellow-ochre, cadmium-red and thalo-green figure prominently in the paintings and contribute decisively to the latter effect.

Mona Saudi's multi-talents include sculpture-works of a calibre and quality that can reasonably and convincingly be likened to that of Henry Moore. She is also an accomplished painter and philosophically-inclined poet. Additionally, she is an artistic eccentric who often uses regular coffee in her drawings, paintings and sketches, adorned by her own poetry, rendered in bold calligraphy, though she also has no qualms

about incorporating poems by one of her favourite poets, Adonis.

Ms. Saudi's works, both sculptures and drawings, are at their absolute best when combined together in one exhibition, acting to augment each other visually, aesthetically, as well as philosophically. Her sculptures employ materials as exquisite and expensive as the finest Italian marbles, though she takes distinct pride in her selection and crafting of local quarry-rocks and marble. She imbues her work with a quality that could almost plausibly lead the viewer to seriously speculate whether she had used a smooth, curvaceous spoon to achieve those gentle lines rather than a chisel and hammer.

Egyptian artist Evelyn Ashmallah's works resonate heavily with the Salvador Dali school of eccentric surrealism, as evidenced in her portrayal of eyes, tongues, noses and hitherto unregistered creatures floating about on the canvas.

The above are just some of the examples of works on display, though it should be noted that their inclusion and mention in detail should not be interpreted to mean that they are in any way superior to those that have not been mentioned — or delved into in-depth — within the confines of this text.

The exhibition included



A painting by Iraqi artist Widad Orfaly currently on display at Baladna Gallery

several key lectures, discussion panels and press conferences, engaging artists, intellectuals, art-critics, poets, and interested laymen in the deliberation. Accounts of early art activities in Jordan, Palestine and parts of the Arab World were presented by each of artists Mr. Rafik Laham, Samia Zaru, Tamam Al-Akhal, Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun, among others. Illuminating the philosophy behind the exhibition, Mrs. Suad Hourani said: "In this sense, the Amman First Gathering of Arab Women Plastic Artists is not merely an 'event', or a mere accumulation of scattered art works that are being put together into one exhibition. Furthermore, the other activities of the gathering are not a transient get-together prompted by the event. The exhibition and the other parallel cultural activities represent for us a new vision and dynamism and a proposed mechanism to continue for the purpose of enhancing the dialogue and constantly exchanging the expertise, experiences, ideas and thoughts."

The exhibition, which was opened on June 17 by Her Majesty Queen Noor, closes on the evening of July 16.

## Bob Dylan's son has blooming musical career

By Dean Goodman  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Continuing in the family business has not been an easy job for Jakob Dylan.

Along with having to fend off questions about his world-famous father, Bob Dylan, he faces the daily grind of being just another struggling musician in Los Angeles.

Dylan's band, The Wallflowers, have just released their second album, 3-1/2 years after their last release. Several members fell by the wayside and then, after the new album was completed, its release was delayed by seven months because of record company politics.

"I think that being a group for seven years, it's unfortunate to have 24 songs available," Dylan, 26, said in an interview at his manager's office. "I think there should be more. I think it's great to have a great catalogue of songs."

Indeed The Wallflowers' sound owes much to artists with impressive catalogues, such as Tom Petty, John Hiatt and Leonard Cohen. But arguably, no living musician has a stronger catalogue than the father in question, Bob Dylan, the 1960s rock music icon who at his son's age had seven albums under his belt.

But questions about his family ties are coolly received as Dylan seeks to carve out his own identity as a singer/songwriter rather than as the youngest son of one of the most influential figures in rock 'n' roll.

"I'm just interested in playing and writing songs and doing it," says Dylan, who also plays rhythm guitar. "I'm not interested in really talking about that subject. That becomes talked about too much. At that point the music just becomes totally unimportant."

Nonetheless, it's hard to ignore the similar facial features, occasional rambling speech patterns and self-effacing, dry wit. But unlike his father, Dylan shies away from political issues, saying no one wants to hear the views of some musician who hasn't sold any records.

All that could change if the new Wallflowers album, *Bringing Down The Horse*

(Interscope), catches the fancy of record-buyers. Like the self-titled debut, it's heavy on the warm sounds of a Hammond B-3 organ and Dylan's husky vocals. Guests this time included Tim Petty's guitarist Mike Campbell, ex-Jayhawk Gary Louris and Adam Duritz of Counting Crows (which had a hit song that included the line "I wanna be Bob Dylan").

Its style is at odds with the current hard-charging hit bands like Metallica and Soundgarden. Dylan's not averse to the modern and album rock genres, but finds a lot of it oppressive. "Sometimes you don't want to hear more than complaints, y'know? There's a lot of complaining going on, people are pretty miserable it sounds like."

But he wryly adds: "It does sell, I guess. I'm trying

to get comfortable." Dylan always wanted to be a musician and with the exception of brief stints delivering Chinese food and nabbing shoplifters, he has stuck to his plan. "I always thought groups were like small gangs. I thought they were pretty cool when I was growing up."

He formed The Wallflowers with friends when he was 19 and they often jammed at Los Angeles' landmark Canter's Deli where insomniac rockers are served by elderly waitresses in pink dresses. The band's name comes from an obscure Bob Dylan song from 1971.

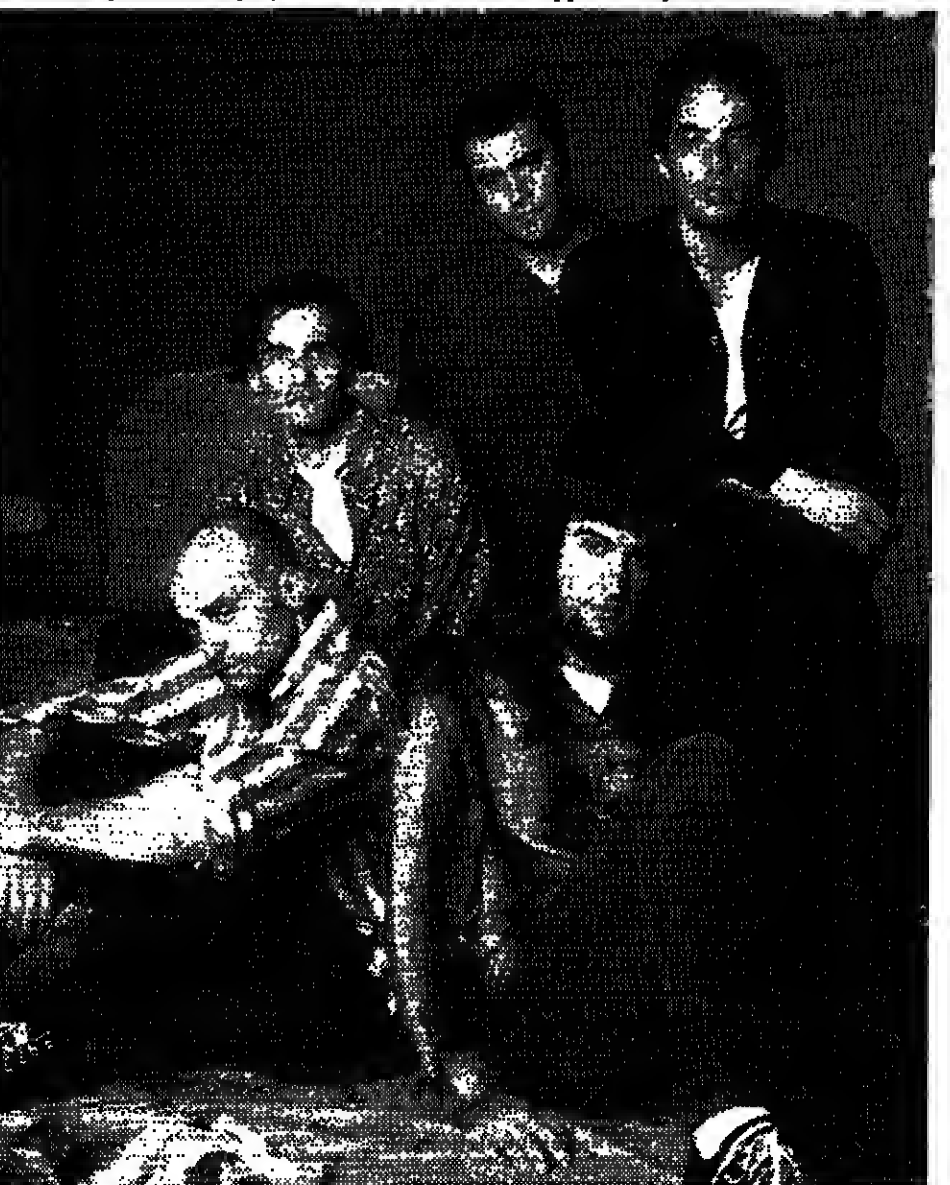
Dylan and keyboardist Rami Jaffe are the only surviving members from the first album, which received glowing reviews but suffered from lack of support

and an executive shuffle at Virgin Records.

The new album marks the first release by Interscope since MCA bought the 50 per cent stake previously held by Time Warner. Political and shareholder pressure forced Time Warner to sell its profitable stake because Interscope handled controversial acts like Snoop Doggy Dogg and Nine Inch Nails.

Although the album's first single, 6th Ave. Heartache is getting support from the VH1 cable channel and Adult-Alternative Radio as the band prepares a concert tour of the U.S., Dylan's not holding his breath about matching the sales of those artists.

"No one's going to hate selling a few million records, but how many people get to. It's not really a healthy dream I don't think."



Members of Jakob Dylan's band Wallflowers are shown in a recent publicity photo. Shown (left-right) are Michael Ward, Mario Calire, Greg Richling, Jakob Dylan, and Rami Jaffe (seated). Dylan is the son of legendary singer Bob Dylan (Reuters photo)



Puppeteer Andras Lenart of the Hungarian State Puppet Theatre holds a marionette of King Lear in the theatre's workshop. The 17th World Puppet Festival held in Budapest brought together almost 500 puppeteers from 47 countries. The week-long jamboree offered over 70 performances in five different theatres (Reuters photo)

## Marionettes prepare comeback at World Puppet Festival

By Duncan Shiels  
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Andras Lenart is a man with a mission — to win people back from video and TV to what he calls the magical world of the marionette.

Standing in his workshop in Hungary's State Puppet Theatre amid lavishly dressed dolls ranging from Petrushka to King Lear, Lenart insisted the world of marionettes will again have its day.

"Puppet theatre, I know, has a future," he said. "People are getting saturated with Disney-type TV and film. They need hand-made entertainment which gets them away from sanitised, mass-produced imagery."

Judging from the public response to the 17th World Puppet Festival which has just brought together in Budapest almost 500 puppeteers from 47 countries, Lenart may have a point.

An estimated 1,000 glove puppets, from Japanese glove dolls to life-size marionettes from Spain took over the Hungarian capital last week, enchanting packed houses in the seven-day festival organised by the French-based UNIMA, the International Union of Puppeteers.

"This is the first international festival which has had any effect on the city," said theatre critic Krisztina Galgoczi.

"Something happened which I've never experienced in the cultural festivals. There were so many companies and venues, everyone seemed to be getting involved."

The festival, which took place in puppet theatres and workshops along Budapest's majestic Andrássy Boulevard, was designed to demonstrate that there was more in puppet theatre than Punch and Judy and the Muppets.

"Puppet theatre is not necessarily children's theatre, it is just a different theatrical language," said Waldemar Wolanski, director of the Arlekin Theatre of Lodz in Poland.

Arlekin's two-hour version of carmen stunned audiences with its erotic mix of puppets and actors playing out an original version of Merimee's tale of love, death and betrayal.

Carmen is a ravishingly beautiful puppet. Actor Marek Chronowski narrates the story through the eyes of her jealous lover Jose, then picks up the strings of Jose the marionette to act out the story with the other dolls.

Masked acims make up the chorus.

"The critics are adults, the newspapers belong to adults. If we want to create an opinion about puppet theatre we must also play to adults," said Wolanski, who directed Carmen.

He said using puppets with the actors added a new dimension to the story.

"Puppets bring the play to another level. For example, when a real actor is stabbed to death everybody knows it's a trick. When the puppet is stabbed and the puppeteer lets the doll fall the audience believes it's the end of the puppet's life. Somehow it's much more cruel and real for the audience."

However, the increasing trend to mix actors with puppets does not go down well with everyone.

"There's a tendency more and more for puppeteers to act as actors and for me it's the wrong way," said Hans Wirth, one half of the Berne-based Puppenbühne theatre, which staged a highly acclaimed piece using a dozen different figures to the music of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

"Puppeteers should trust the power of the puppets," he said. "A puppet can fly, it can break into pieces and reassemble itself. Its power

also lies in the fact that it doesn't have an individual history. That is its strength."

Dezso Szilagyi, the Hungarian organiser of the four-yearly festival, who was director of the Hungarian State Puppet Theatre for 30 years, says the appeal of marionettes to Central Europeans lies in identifying with the puppet rather than the master.

"A marionette's movements are entirely controlled by a greater power, which people can interpret as God, the state or whatever. That has a lot of appeal."

Puppeteers are divided as to what makes a good exponent of the art. For Russian one-man show Nikolai Zykov it is a combination of things. "A good puppeteer must not only be a good craftsman, he must be an artist like a painter, he must understand colours and forms, but most of all he must have a musical soul."

Wirth agrees that the appeal of working in puppetry is the mastering of so many different skills, from carpentry to script writing but for him the essential quality is simple.

"A good puppet master must love his puppets," he said.



# Arthritis research — Britain's role

By John Newell

"BRITAIN should be proud and immensely grateful for the achievements of arthritis over the last 60 years. They are bringing direct benefits to sufferers throughout the world." So said Paul Dieppe, Professor of Rheumatology and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bristol, in a recent review of research into arthritis in progress in the United Kingdom commissioned by the British charity the Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Council (ARC), which supports much of the research in the U.K.

The ARC believes the review shows that Britain leads the world in terms of arthritis research. Professor Dieppe lays special emphasis on exciting new British work on enzyme inhibitors and monoclonal antibodies being developed to control the causes of rheumatoid arthritis.

He says that researchers are sometimes criticised for having failed to find "the cure" after 60 years of research supported by the ARC. But while it remains true that many forms of arthritis are still incurable, they are no longer untreatable. The improvements in the care and likely outcome for most people with arthritis have been spectacular, and research has led to genuine optimism that more cures will soon be forthcoming.

We now know that there are 200 different types of arthritis.

They have been defined through painstaking observational research.

"The importance of this cannot be overestimated," says Professor Dieppe. "We can only begin to find the causes and cures if we first understand the different types of disease that we are dealing with."

One way to discover the

cause of disease is to document the frequency and distribution of the different forms in which it occurs. This is known as epidemiology.

"ARC had the foresight to set up an arthritis epidemiology research unit, in Manchester, many years ago," says Professor Dieppe.

## Different Forms

The length of time for which this unit has been collecting data has enabled it to collect some extremely valuable information about the distribution of different forms of arthritis, which has given valuable clues to their causes.

Another form of social rather than laboratory research into arthritis which has been largely pioneered in the U.K. has been research into arthritis which has been largely pioneered in the U.K. has been research into the impact of the disease on society.

"We can now provide our politicians and health leaders with well-documented evidence that arthritis is one of the most important health problems in our society, that it is growing in significance as the population ages, and that it is a huge cost burden to the country. We have also collected sobering data about the numbers of people in pain or disabled," says Professor Dieppe.

This sort of data is of value far beyond the U.K., since although the details are different, the social changes and problems brought about by ageing populations are being felt in many ageing populations.

## Growing Cost

The huge and growing cost burden of arthritis revealed by British surveys provide the springboard and justification

for other surveys in other countries, as well as providing valuable predictions to help in deciding national caring and research budgets and priorities.

For some common forms of arthritis, including gout and some occupational forms of osteoarthritis, research has already revealed the causes, along with ways of life or procedures which can help to avoid the development of disease.

Gout is now safely controllable using allopurinol. For other forms of arthritis, research to identify causes continues. "We have 200 different joints in our bodies," says Professor Dieppe, which are constantly in use for over 70 years, far longer than any machine. As well as asking why they go wrong, we need to ask what normally maintains them in reasonably good condition, in spite of treatment that would wear out any machine.

The answers to these questions are valuable in more than one direction. On the one hand discovering the body's normal repair and maintenance mechanisms gives hope of becoming able to stimulate them artificially when they fail to work properly in arthritis. On the other hand studying the properties of living joints can provide lessons for the designers of mechanical joints of all kinds, as well as for those bioengineers who are specifically concerned with the design of artificial joints, such as hip joints, to replace natural joints that have finally worn out.

## Tissue Repair

Two natural processes are crucial to maintaining the normal integrity of our joints: inflammation and tissue repair. It is now clear, thanks largely to British research at cen-

tres such as the Kennedy Arthritis Research Centre and the Postgraduate Medical School in the Hammersmith Hospital in London, that the key mechanisms of rheumatoid and osteoarthritis are abnormalities of inflammatory and repair processes respectively.

Inflammation is the main means used to get rid of microbes and foreign bodies that may enter the joints. It is probably normally crucial to joint health. But in rheumatoid arthritis the process gets out of hand. "Great strides have been made," says Professor Dieppe. "In our understanding of this process, leading to new strategies in controlling it."

It is also worth mentioning that parts of the sequence of events by which inflammation causes damage in rheumatoid arthritis appear to be identical to those by which similar processes cause damage in other auto-immune diseases, including multiple sclerosis and forms of diabetes and thyroid disease. Thus research on, and even perhaps treatments developed for one of these conditions may prove valuable and effective for others.

Similarly the roughening and pitting of cartilage found in osteoarthritis is normally prevented by repair mechanisms which fail in the disease condition. Over the last few years research, much of it carried out by Professor Dieppe himself, has led to exciting new ideas about how we might restore normal repair mechanisms in joints, and stimulate cartilage to heal better.

## Genetic Factors

British groups were among the first to link specific genes to susceptibility to forms of arthritis (ankylosing spondyli-

# Research into AIDS vaccine languishes

By Cynthia Osterman  
Reporter

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The best hope of conquering AIDS lies in the development of a vaccine, but governments and drug companies are virtually ignoring this critical area of research, scientists said.

After more than a decade of AIDS research, no vaccine has advanced to large-scale trials in humans and researchers believe the introduction of a vaccine is at least five years away and probably longer at the current pace of study.

"It is a joke," said Donald Francis, a pioneer in AIDS virology at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and now president of Genovax Inc. which is working on a vaccine.

"There is only one way you are going to stop this virus and that's with a vaccine. We need to do more," he said.

Prospects for a vaccine is being hotly debated at the 11th International Conference on AIDS which starts Sunday in Vancouver. A new global effort to promote research into an AIDS vaccine will be launched Sunday in Vancouver with backing from the United Nations and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Every day about 8,500 people worldwide are infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. Experts say prevention efforts like safe-sex education campaigns are worthwhile but are not enough to halt the spread.

Vaccines, which produce immunity to a disease and have eradicated smallpox and made

strides toward eliminating polio in recent decades, offer the best hope of a solution.

"In the long run if we are going to have a substantial impact on the (AIDS) epidemic we have to look to...vaccines," said researcher David Ho of New York's Aaron Diamond Centre.

"Science in this area is not progressing very rapidly. We have nothing to speak of today that could be used widely."

Researchers blame slow progress so far in AIDS vaccines on a shortage of funding and hesitancy among drug companies. They say drug companies see uncertain profit prospects and potentially large liabilities if vaccines do not work. They also cite a lack of government leadership.

Some experimental vaccines have shown promise in tests on monkeys or trials with relatively small groups of people, but governments and most big drug companies have been slow to move forward. "The need for a vaccine has never been greater, but it doesn't seem to be a global priority," said New York AIDS activist David Gold.

In the United States, vaccine study received less than eight per cent of the \$1.4 billion spent by the National Institutes of Health last year on AIDS research, said Dr. Margaret Johnston, scientific director of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. "We think an effective vaccine is achievable but the pace is going to have to be accelerated."

Disappointment about the lack of progress in vaccines contrasts with

the current general mood of optimism over breakthroughs in AIDS treatment. New drugs introduced in recent months have shown remarkable success in reducing the amount of HIV virus in the blood to undetectable levels.

But even if these advances ultimately lead to a cure for AIDS, the cost of such therapies at \$12,000 to \$16,000 a year will be out of reach for most of the world's population, particularly victims in the Third World. If developed, a vaccine would likely cost just a few dollars a person.

Researchers estimate about 25 experimental vaccines are being investigated. Work so far has focused almost exclusively on the strains of the HIV virus that are prevalent in developed countries rather than those spreading rapidly in Asia and Africa where a vaccine is desperately needed.

Genovax hopes to begin large-scale human trials next year on a vaccine called GP120 based on a genetically engineered piece of the outer surface of the HIV virus. A vaccine by Pasteur Merieux of France, a unit of Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc., based on the canarypox virus is among those showing promise and researchers hope it will be ready for large-scale human tests in 1998.

Other approaches include using vaccine combinations, chemically inactivated HIV, HIV genetic coding and live altered HIV.

**Feature**  
**AIDS in U.N.**  
A decade has passed since the first AIDS case was detected in Jordan. The disease continues to spread in check despite the fact that the number of cases is still low. The Ministry of Health reported 133 cases of HIV (HIV) in 1995, an increase from 100 in 1994. The number of AIDS-related deaths was 20 in 1995, up from 15 in 1994. The Jordanian government is working to control the spread of the disease. It has established a National AIDS Committee and is conducting awareness campaigns. The Jordanian government is also providing medical care for AIDS patients. The Jordanian government is also providing financial support for AIDS research. The Jordanian government is also providing financial support for AIDS research. The Jordanian government is also providing financial support for AIDS research.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LET FREEDOM RING

By Joel Davajan

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## Vitamin C injections 'help smokers'

DALLAS (R) — Injecting Vitamin C into smokers' blood vessels mops up harmful chemicals and reverses one of the most dangerous effects of heavy smoking on the heart, a group of scientists said in a study published Monday.

Vitamin C, a strong antioxidant, was shown in research on 10 chronic smokers to neutralise the cardiovascular damage caused by the oxidants found in cigarette smoke, according to three German scientists whose findings were published in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*.

But they cautioned it was too early to say if Vitamin C pills might stave off heart disease normally associated with smoking.

"Whether or not daily oral intake of Vitamin C may

limit the cardiovascular consequences of chronic smoking requires further clinical investigation," said the trio of scientists from the University of Freiburg in Germany.

Writing in the same journal, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald of the University of Philadelphia said his team had also found that Vitamin C, either used alone or with Vitamin E, reduces high levels of oxidant stress in cigarette smokers but said the answer is to quit smoking rather than take vitamins.

"We are not ready yet to recommend that smokers take specific doses of Vitamins C and E," Dr. Fitzgerald said.

The oxidants in cigarette smoke damage a thin layer of cells called endothelium, which serves to regulate blood vessel tone by allow-

ing arteries to narrow or widen as needed.

When the endothelium suffers damage, deposits of "bad" cholesterol and other substances can form on the artery wall, raising the danger of heart attacks or strokes.

In their research, the German scientists injected a chemical that serves to stimulate the endothelium into the forearms of 10 non-smokers and 10 heavy smokers. The arteries of the non-smokers widened as expected while the effect on the group of smokers was significantly weaker.

But when researchers repeated the test after first injecting Vitamin C into the same veins, there was a great improvement in the blood flow of the smokers' arteries.

The German scientists

now plan to begin tests to see if Vitamin C pills can have the same effect as the direct injections.

The University of Pennsylvania researchers said they were able to measure the levels of "free radicals" in smokers and the levels were reduced among people who either quit smoking or took vitamins.

Free radicals are molecules or atoms with a free electron that makes them react easily with other molecules. They can be produced in the body by exposure to cigarette smoke or pollution or by alcohol consumption, and they are implicated in several diseases.

Smokers who switched to nicotine patches also showed reduced free radical levels.

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) Jason and his companions sailed in the Argo. Darke in the Golden Hind. Darwin in the Beagle. Lord Kitchener in the Hampshire. Captain Bligh in the Bounty. Captain Cook in the Endeavour. The Pilgrim Fathers in the Mayflower. Sir Richard Grenville in the Revenge and also Drake against the Armada. Noah and Sir Walter Raleigh in the Ark.
- (2) To Lilliput, the country of the dwarfs; Brobdingnag, the country of the giants; Laputa, the flying island, Legado with its Academy of Projectors, and the land of the Struldbrugs or immortals; and to the country of the Houyhnhnms or reasoning horses, and the Yahoos or beasts in the shape of men.
- (3) If you were a hangman hanging a man sentenced to death, or an officer of justice carrying out your duty; if you acted under fear of being killed yourself; if you acted in defence either of yourself or of property against forcible and heinous crime; if you were insane or drunk through no fault of your own at the moment of the death; if the death was the entirely accidental result of some lawful act — you would not have committed a crime. Children under seven cannot commit a crime, and children between seven and fourteen only if it can be shown that they knew the act

was wrong.

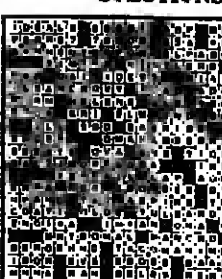
- (4) Hammer if it has a claw; pincers.
- (5) A buccaneer was one of the pirates of the seventeenth century whose headquarters were in the islands of the Spanish Main. To maroon was to abandon a sailor on a lonely island. To shanghai was to make a man insensible by drink or drugs and ship him on an outgoing vessel. To keel-haul was to punish a sailor by dragging him by a rope from one side of the ship to the other under the keel. To walk the plank was to be put to death by being compelled to walk a plank into the sea.

### PUZZLES

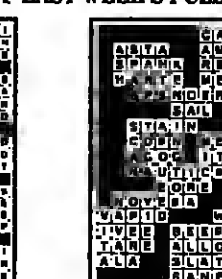
#### "EIGHTS"

- (A) BAR-BE-CUE, BAT-TE-RED, BIT-ING-LY, BAD-IN-AGE, GIN-GE-RLY.
- (B) BUN-GL-ERS, LIS-TE-NER, MAR-CH-ING, MAT-TR-ESS, PAR-DO-NED.
- (C) BUT-TO-NED, COM-MU-TED, PAT-ER-NAL, STA-IR-WAY, WAT-CH-ERS.

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



## U.S. firm seeks re

(Continued from page 1)  
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Features

# AIDS in Jordan — a glimpse at the last ten years

## U.N. World Population Day focuses on AIDS and reproductive health

UNDP — A decade has passed since the first AIDS case was detected in Jordan in 1986, and the spread of this fatal disease continues to remain in check despite the rampant levels it has reached in other countries. According to figures released by the Ministry of Health, to date there has been only 133 reported cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, 40 of which have resulted in AIDS-related death.

Given the sociological trends in the Kingdom, the number is reassuringly small. With over 200,000 foreign laborers working here, some 30,000 Jordanians studying abroad and 500,000 expatriate workers who return each year, there is a lot of movement in and out of the country. This, combined with the steady growth of inbound and outbound tourism, makes it clear that cross-cultural interaction is on the rise, thus multiplying the possibilities of HIV transmission. To be sure, HIV/AIDS has become a global battle and an endemic in another country, whether near or distant, can no longer be ignored. Interestingly, official figures reveal that non-Jordanians constitute 34 per cent of the 133 cases recorded in Jordan.

Economic factors cannot be discounted in the dispersion of the disease. Many young Jordanian men have to delay marriage because of economic hardships, opening the door to sexual interaction outside a monogamous relationship. This is not to say that sexu-

al interaction is the only way through which the disease can be contacted. However, approximately 41 per cent of the HIV cases in the Kingdom were transmitted through sexual contact, making it the major source of infection. The 30-39 age group had the primary victims of HIV/AIDS in the country, constituting 36 per cent of reported cases since 1986, followed by the 20-29 age group who make up 26 per cent of the cases.

While the United Nations reports that women are "biologically, epidemiologically and socially more vulnerable" to HIV, the male-female ratio of HIV carriers in Jordan remains 5 to 1.

But age and gender statistics alone do not paint the complete picture. A blind screening survey conducted by the Ministry of Health between 1987 and 1995 reveals that expatriate workers and blood recipients are afflicted as well. In fact, contaminated blood and blood products accounted for 36 per cent of HIV infections in the last ten years, the second highest mode of transmission after sexual contact. Blood products have been screened rigorously since 1985, and today the ministry enforces stringent testing requirements before imported blood products are allowed to enter the country.

Although AIDS in Jordan has not snowballed into a phenomenal health crisis that can be found in South Asian and African countries, local health officials

have been working discreetly amidst the social stigma associated with the disease, in raising public awareness. After its first encounter with AIDS in 1986, the Ministry of Health took heed by establishing the National AIDS Programme (NAP) to combat the spread of the disease. Much of NAP's efforts have been directed towards AIDS education for health workers and in schools as well as screening of blood donors, travellers and migrant workers. More recently, a UNAIDS Theme Group, cosponsored by five local U.N. agencies, has been formed to assist the NAP in its long-term fight against AIDS.

Dr. Ali Asad, an epidemiologist with the Ministry of Health, has been working with HIV/AIDS patients since NAP's inception, and is perhaps the foremost expert on the AIDS situation in Jordan.

To Dr. Asad, who currently counsels 46 HIV/AIDS patients, the one million Jordanian youth in the 15-24 age bracket constitute a major concern. They tend to be misled by misconceptions about AIDS, making them more vulnerable to transmission, he asserts. A greater challenge still faces the NAP in reaching what Dr. Asad classifies as the high risk groups — prostitutes, homosexuals and carriers of sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Fearing reprisal from the law or being ostracised, HIV carriers in this group are unlikely to come forward and seek help, and thus are not

easily identified. Ironically, the government's tolerant and open-handed approach in addressing the spread of AIDS works against them at times. "Many potential counselling patients do not like to be seen entering this building or my office for fear that people will know that they have HIV/AIDS", says Dr. Asad. Alternately, the ministry cannot make individual house calls because of lack of resources, and also because an official visit from the Ministry of Health would arouse curiosity among neighbours. But there seems to be no dispute to the fact that these victims need "moral, social and financial support", according to Dr. Asad, and the NAP has sought the help of NGOs, religious groups and other government agencies in its outreach programme.

In tackling such a touchy issue, the NAP has had to maintain a delicate balance between educating the public on AIDS and adhering to the social and religious values of Jordanian society. With years of experience in the field, Dr. Asad has cultivated a know-how in addressing different audiences. In preaching prevention for example, some people may not tolerate the use of the word "condom", so it is substituted with a more suitable phrase like "precautionary products found in pharmacies". Close cooperation with religious authorities has also helped ensure that the message against AIDS is disseminated in a conscientious and



More than 100 delegates at the 11th International Conference on AIDS gather around a closed-circuit television outside a meeting room as American researcher Dr. Robert Gallo delivers his address to a capacity crowd at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre on July 8. Top AIDS researchers presented solid evidence that the disease that has killed nearly 6 million people may have become treatable thanks to complex 'cocktail' of experimental drugs (Reuter photo)

culturally sensitive manner. Today, the AIDS issue is brought to the forefront in Jordan and around the world on the occasion of World Population Day, which this year has adopted the theme HIV/AIDS and reproductive health care.

In a statement commemorating this event, the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Nafis Sadik, gives a chilling statistic: "About five people every

minute contract the HIV virus which eventually leads to AIDS; by the end of the century, more than 10 million people will have died of AIDS." Dr. Sadik urged all individuals to take responsibility for their sexual health in preventing the spread of the AIDS virus. She also emphasised the vital role of reproductive health programmes in combating AIDS.

The AIDS virus is sweeping through developing

countries at an alarming rate, sparing no one in its course. An estimated 22 million people around the world are living with the virus, with about 100,000 of them in the Middle East and North Africa; according to the World Health Organisation.

Jordan may be a tiny fish in this sea of contagion, but the disease will continue to take its toll here, warns Dr. Asad. "The number of HIV infections in the country

will increase, but to what extent, we don't know since we are unable to reach the high-risk groups," says Dr. Asad. Forming an NGO for AIDS would help surmount many of the obstacles that government workers face in reaching out to AIDS-victims at the grassroots level, believes Dr. Asad. But even social workers are shying away from the idea because of the stigma associated with it. In the meantime, the clock continues to tick.

# Gaza becomes an even bigger prison

By Robert Mahoney  
Reuter

GAZA — Mohammed Al Sakan bobbles into the unfurnished room of his Gaza apartment carrying his crippled infant son.

Mr. Sakan has not worked much since he was shot in the leg during the Palestinian uprising against Israel seven years ago.

His 18-month-old son Hamed needs an operation in Jerusalem to cure a club-foot.

Mr. Sakan cannot afford it, so the toddler has not yet learned to walk.

Mr. Sakan flops down on a straw mat, cradling the boy, to tell his story. He apologises for the absence of his father, taken to hospital during the night because of diabetes. Just then the father, looking much older than his 53 years, shuffles in. Discharged. No more beds.

He stares, glassy-eyed, telling no one in particular that the hospital has let him go with a prescription that

he doesn't have the money to fill. The doctor's note says he is unfit for work.

One family, three generations of Gazans who have missed out on the Middle East "peace dividend". It is two years since Yasser Arafat, under the Oslo peace accord, brought in his Palestinian authority on the heels of departing Israeli soldiers.

Then the Sakan, like thousands of others, were sucked into the whirlwind of hope that swept through the Gaza Strip and West Bank, only to be dashed against the reality of Israel's continued dominance of Palestinian life and the limitations of their own leaders.

Israel's "security" closures, part of a cycle of guerrilla attacks and state retaliation, have throttled an already sputtering Palestinian economy. Mr. Arafat, at the insistence of Israel and the United States, has concentrated on building up security rather than the economy.

"I was very optimistic that things would get better," Mr. Sakan said. "What can I say?" he answered, smiling nervously when pressed on the achievements of the last two years. "I don't want to get into politics."

Public criticism of the authority has landed prominent human rights activists in jail. Arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, torture and intimidation of journalists are part of a long litany of abuse cited by human rights organisations over the past two years.

Mr. Sakan spent 55 days in jail and lost his job in the new Palestinian police force because his brother was picked up as a suspect in a crackdown on the Islamic Hamas movement, following suicide bombings in Israel this spring. Mr. Sakan joined the police, one of the few growth industries, earning about \$250 a month. Even with that steady wage he would run out of money in the middle of the month. Now

he scrapes by on charity and loans.

"I went to UNRWA," he said, "but the man told me, 'go away, there are lots of worse cases than yours'." UNRWA, the United Nations agency in charge of Palestinian refugees, hands out flour, rice and canned sardines to about 12,000 Gazan families who do not have a male breadwinner.

So Mr. Sakan, even with his disability, doesn't qualify for aid.

"I applied for a job in the unemployment programme, but didn't get anything," he said. Norway, a prime mover behind the 1993 Israel-PLO peace agreement, has given \$5 million for a five-month job-creation scheme to try to mop up some of the estimated 60 per cent unemployed.

About 3,000 men, from labourers to doctors, have been put to work sweeping the streets or helping in offices, earning \$12 a day. Gaza was never developed during the 27-year-long Israeli occupation. It

became a colonial economy — providing Israel with cheap labour, buying its goods and swelling its tax coffers.

Before the December 1987 intifada 120,000 Gazans used to work in Israel, each wage-earner feeding about 10 people. During the uprising the number halved. Since the suicide bombings only a trickle of workers and exports have been allowed out of the strip which is fenced in, with all land, sea and air access controlled by Israel. Now about 10,000 workers a day are crossing into the Jewish state which has imported east Europeans and thais to replace Arabs.

"I cannot get permission to go to Israel," Mr. Sakan says. He used to earn 70 to 80 shekels (then \$30) a day, a comfortable wage for someone who left school at 13 with no skills.

Now, aged 26 and with a bad leg, Mr. Sakan can do only light work, even if he could find it. The residen-

tial construction boom that followed Mr. Arafat's arrival has petered out. Grandiose development projects have been shelved; of the \$2.4 billion pledged in aid by international donors \$900 million has come but that generated few jobs. Much of the Palestinian Authority's budget has gone into security. The streets are filled with young men with guns. The Oslo accord envisaged 9,000 police, Mr. Arafat now has nearer 30,000, diplomats say.

Since Mr. Sakan lost his police job he has piled up debts to the local grocery store, neighbours, and relatives. He has always lived from hand to mouth. When an Israeli soldier shot him in 1989 the PLO paid him JD 230 (\$240) compensation.

He hasn't seen a penny

since. He might be able to walk better if he had an operation and therapy but that means going abroad.

"I cannot afford it," he said, echoing the fate of his second son Hamed.

"I feel I'm going mad. I cannot do anything for my family...How do you think I feel as a father of an 18-month-old child? I cannot afford the medical treatment he needs, he has a bent foot, I need to take him to Jerusalem for an operation. But I am not allowed to leave. That means I have to get permits for his mother and my mother to take him. That costs money. Then there are the hospital bills. It has to wait."

Mr. Sakan can see no way out of the cycle of unemployment and debt as most of those around him are trapped in the same vicious circle. Gazans do breathe

easier without the Israeli army. Some of Gaza city's drab streets have been spruced up. The beach, off limits during the occupation, is open and restaurants have sprung up along the Mediterranean shore. But few in the refugee camps and shanty towns can afford to join PLO "returnees" who eat there.

"In the past I could find casual work, odd jobs," Mr. Sakan said. "Now we have no income and prices have gone up...A sack of flour used to cost 53 shekels now it's 97 shekels."

With such immediate worries Mr. Sakan does not want to think of the brighter future. Oslo was supposed to be a start.

But what would he say to Mr. Arafat if he met him? "I would just ask him to come here to see how we live."

### U.S. firm seeks review

(Continued from page 1)

requested CHA to provide financial guarantees and statements. Senior officials expressed growing concern over a possible damage to foreign investor confidence if it appeared that a wrong decision was made on the award of the project, promoted as a key peace dividend from Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

The two companies were among three shortlisted last March from a total of 34 international competitors bidding for the export-oriented refinery with a 250,000 barrels per day capacity.

The agency ministry set pre-qualification conditions for completion of the refinery in four years, seeking the best offers on a build, operate and own basis.

Officials say CHA presented the best offer with a commitment to sell its stake in the 5700 capital owning company to Jordan after 20 years. The firm, to be set up within 180 days, would offer Jordanian shareholders 45 per cent of its equity.

### Mubarak to visit Turkey for talks on Israel accord

(Continued from page 1)

that "provisions against our national interest and security will not be implemented." But on Tuesday, Ms. Ciller, now foreign minister in Mr. Erbakan's government, said in a television interview that "the agreement will continue. It is binding on the (Turkish) state." Although Israeli officials have said they are "concerned" Mr. Erbakan will water down the accord, the foreign ministry insisted Monday that the change in government "does not modify the common interests of Turkey and Israel."

"Under whatever government, Turkey will continue to be an eminent and effective partner in the promotion of peace and bilateral relations between the two countries," it said.

### Arabs slam Netanyahu's stance on peace process

(Continued from page 1)

a press conference after meeting Mr. Clinton on Tuesday.

But reports from Washington said Mr. Netanyahu was taking a more conciliatory line in private than his tough public stand would indicate.

According to well-placed U.S. sources, Mr. Netanyahu told Mr. Clinton at the White House on Tuesday he intends to carry out the Israeli commitment made by two previous Labour-led governments to pursue a final settlement with the Palestinian National Authority.

Also, Mr. Netanyahu gave assurances he expects to find a way soon to implement a pledge to redeploy Israeli troops in the volatile West Bank town of Hebron so they would keep their distance from the Arab majority, said the sources, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

And he is stepping up contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but deferring a summit meeting with Mr. Arafat unless it becomes critical to working out further accords.

But on the dormant Syrian negotiating track, Mr. Netanyahu is insisting on a virtual halt to attacks by Lebanon-based Hizbollah guerrillas on Israel before considering a deal with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Overall, White House spokesman Mike McCurry described the president as delighted with the results of the talks.

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## Interbank overnight rate drops to 4.75%

By Samir Ghawi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Interbank overnight rate stood at around 4.75 per cent Wednesday, easing slightly from the five per cent rate charged Tuesday between the banks in the Kingdom, a reliable banking source told the Jordan Times.

The overnight rate was as high as 10.5 per cent last week and has gradually declined over the past few days, the source said. He explained that the rate surged last week as a result of the withdrawal of funds by the Palestinian Monetary Authority. As the amount, estimated at about JD60 million, represented the same volume of funds that was moving between the banks for overnight lending, the withdrawal caused a shortage of liquidity and the rate soared to 10.5 per cent.

As such, the source indicated, the banks approached the Central Bank for a repurchase of their holdings of certificates of deposits to secure the necessary liquidity. This move made funds available and ensured the return to the normal overnight rate of around five per cent.

Another banking source said that the Central Bank was indirectly influencing interest rates by its issuance of certificates of deposits and that this policy has shifted funds from the stock exchange to the banking system where investors can obtain risk-free higher return on deposits.

Another source of funds to the banks is the transfer of foreign currencies into Jordanian dinars as the Central Bank is keeping a high edge over interest rates offered on the dollar and other currencies.

It is not yet clear at what rate and by how much the Central Bank will be offering its new certificates of deposit next week, but the sources do not believe that the interest rates in the market will change.

## Top Arab shipping firm back in the black

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The biggest joint shipping venture in the Arab World climbed back into profit in 1995 after accumulating losses of more than \$100 million in the previous three years, results have showed.

The United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) made a net profit of \$87.14 million in 1995, one of the highest incomes since it was launched by six regional governments in 1976, according to its balance sheet. The report did not give a reason for the profits but company sources in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) attributed it to global economic growth.

"Higher growth in the world economy boosted shipping business in general. Naturally we benefited from such an upturn," one source said.

An earlier economic worldwide slump combined with growing competition in the oil-rich region to keep UASC in the red for three years forcing it to introduce austerity measures to safeguard development plans. The Kuwait-based UASC suffered from a net loss of \$17.2 million in 1994, around \$73.1 million in 1993 and \$33 million in 1992.

In 1991, it reported high net profits of nearly \$60 million as the company monopolised services in the region after international shipping firms were scared off during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Company officials said the recovery in 1995 and expected good results in 1996 would encourage UASC to press ahead with

expansion plans.

They include operating new lines and purchasing 10 new container ships to serve the Far East, Europe and the Middle East.

The ships will replace the existing fleet of 13 vessels, plying those routes.

The new ships, which will boost UASC's fleet to more than 40 vessels, will cost around \$900 million and have a capacity of between 3,500 and 4,000 containers each, according to the UASC office in the UAE.

UASC is the biggest joint Arab shipping company and its activities cover mostly Gulf states and their main economic partners, the United States, the European Union, Japan and its Asian neighbours. It decided to boost its fleet to face a surge in demand due to an

increase in imports by Arab Gulf states, the biggest consumer market in the Middle East. Their annual purchases exceed \$50 billion per year.

The balance sheet, distributed in the UAE, showed UASC rebounded into profits although operating costs increased to \$563.8 million in 1995 from around \$542.6 million in 1994.

But earnings from shipping operations surged to \$643.9 million from \$557 million. The income from interest also jumped to \$33.5 million from \$22.1 million while that from investment portfolios stood at \$18.9 million compared with a loss of \$3.3 million.

The report showed the company's paid up capital stood at \$991.2 million at the end of 1995.

## DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

### 25,000 persons apply for 88 vacancies at Ministry of Health

A COMMITTEE formed by the minister of health is currently studying 25,000 employment applications to fill 88 vacancies in the fourth grade. A source at the ministry said the committee's task aims at selecting 40 servants, 20 guards, 15 telephone operators, eight housekeepers and five seamstresses without being subjected to various pressures to appoint certain people. "The committee has no power to appoint anyone as it will only make recommendation to the decision-makers to fill the vacancies according to the bases adopted by the Civil Service Commission," the source said. The committee is expected to finish its work within a month (Al Ra'i).

### Saudi team begins recruiting Jordanian teachers

A SAUDI team, which arrived in Amman last week to recruit a number of Jordanian teachers to work in Saudi Arabia, has started accepting employment applications and conducting interviews. The team is expected to recruit about 2,000 teachers

to work in Saudi schools, said Suleiman Al Zayidi, the head of the employment committees. He added that another committee will arrive Thursday or Friday to recruit teachers to work at teachers' colleges in Saudi Arabia. Recruitment will also be opened to attract Jordanians qualified for special teaching of handicapped, Mr. Zayidi said (Al Ra'i).

### Jordan dairy company reports JD5.4 million of sales

THE JORDAN Dairy Company produced 6,766 tonnes of pasteurised milk and yoghurt, 596 tonnes of cheese and 230 tonnes of other products last year, according to the company's annual report. Total sales amounted to JD5.4 million of which JD485,000 were sales of the "plastic factory." The general assembly approved the distribution of JD262,500 in dividends to shareholders at a rate of 15 per cent. Shareholders' equity stood at JD2.26 million and total assets stood at JD3.2 million at the end of 1995 (Al Aswaq).

## REUTERS • REUTERS

The Business of Information The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SEK	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5247	0.6437	1.2622	110.05	1.7885	1636.26	1.3663	6.5595
DM	0.6563	1.0000	0.4366	0.6366	63.76	1.4301	133.63	1.9364	4.9360
GB Sterling	1.5548	1.5535	1.0000	1.9608	178.91	2.1291	2384.46	2.6570	8.0161
JP Yen	0.0091	0.0091	0.0025	0.0016	1.0000	0.0074	0.0074	0.0074	0.0074
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	1.0000	0.0002	0.0002
FR Franc	0.1937	0.1936	0.1246	0.1457	21.33	0.1669	33.34	1.0000	6.5595

Energy									
Oil	Unit	Price	Oil	Unit	Price	Oil	Unit	Price	Oil
Brent	20.30	28.25	WTI	20.30	28.25	Arabian	20.30	28.25	28.25
Gas	20.30	28.25	Coal	20.30	28.25	Electricity	20.30	28.25	28.25

Commodity Prices									
Commodity	Unit	Price	Commodity	Unit	Price	Commodity	Unit	Price	Commodity
Wheat	20.30	28.25	Soybeans	20.30	28.25	Corn	20.30	28.25	28.25
Cotton	20.30	28.25	Wool	20.30	28.25	Gold	20.30	28.25	28.25

Index									
Index	Value	Change	Index	Value	Change	Index	Value	Change	Index
Dow Jones	5548.90	+55.25	Nikkei	12116.75	+116.75	FTSE 100	3766.5	+37.5	3766.5
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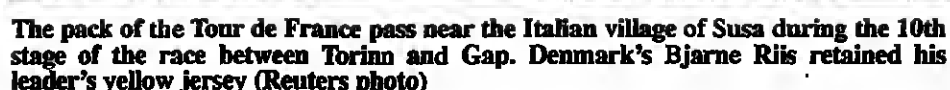
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GAP, France (AP) — After more than a week of wind, snow and rain, the Tour de France, finally got good weather Tuesday and immediately celebrated by taking a rest Wednesday.

The rest day was planned as the only break in the 21-day tour. Bjarne Riis of Denmark has the leader's yellow jersey and five-time champion Miguel Indurain is planning ways to chip away at his lead.

The riders need a break. The poor weather took its toll on the pack. Top names such as Lance Armstrong, Laurent Jalabert and Mario Cipollini all have withdrawn due to sickness already.

Snow even caused organizers to bypass two mountain climbs Monday.

The race was resume Thursday as it heads across France's Massif central for a string of moderate to long stages featuring several short, steep climbs.

That was considered the perfect place for Indurain's challengers to attack the Spanish rider's lead, when it was expected Indurain would be in first.

Now Indurain is the one that can profit with a series of small attacks that could sap the strength of the seven riders ahead of him.

Indurain is in eighth place, 4:38 behind Riis. Indurain faltered over the weekend and a four-minute loss in Saturday's stage put him behind.

The Tour heads into the Pyrenees and then Spain for a stage on July 17 that ends near Indurain's hometown. The second time trial, on July 20, will probably crown the overall winner before the final ceremonial spin through Paris on July 21.

Tuesday, Erik Zabel... of Germany capped the first half of the race by taking his second stage win in another final sprint.

Zabel, who won the Tour's third stage, edged Djameloddin Abdoulajapov of Uzbekistan and Italy's Andrea Ferrigato.

"It's an extraordinary stage because our team rode the perfect race," said Zabel, whose Telekom team kept Riis in the overall lead and chased down Danish rider Rolf Sorensen in the final stretch.

Indurain, who turns 32 on Tuesday, is trying to become the first man to win a record six tours.

Only three others have managed to win five — Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault.

Swedish international midfielder Tomas Brodin may leave his current Premier League club Leeds for newcomers to Italy's first division Verona, local press reported on Wednesday.

### Semifinal losses at the 1994 World

But teams from many of the 197 competing nations were still at training camps outside the host city, in some cases in neighboring states.

Byron Black of  
and three other  
in action Tuesday  
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... Koeng 6-4 4-6 3-5

champion Pat Cash of

Paes of India. But

and three other

ed in straight sets.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.



## Countdown begins for attempt to break world land speed record in Al Jafr

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff  
Reporter

AMMAN — As the attempt to break the world land speed record in south-eastern desert of Al Jafr gets closer, organisers and designers are currently putting the finishing touches for the extraordinary project.

Thrust SSC, the super-sonic car which will be driven by British Air Force officer Andy Green, is now undergoing final engine tests in Britain before the biggest capacity Antonov plane brings it to the Kingdom.

As the countdown to the event begins, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre are busy with final preparations on the course where the attempt will be made.

RACJ will be timing the attempt on behalf of the international automobile

association FIA. RACJ spokesman Bader Rashid said marking signals were currently being placed on the 16 kilometre-long track and the event was closely being monitored by speed enthusiasts worldwide via the Internet. FIA, the Mach Club and others.

A press release by Castrol International, sponsors of the world record bid, said the organisers of the Thrust SSC project had received a message of goodwill from His Majesty King Hussein at a conference in London by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Hussein. The prince said: "His Majesty and the government and people of Jordan are delighted to offer the facilities of Al Jafr desert for the testing of Thrust SSC."

"I believe the conditions will be very conducive to the work of the team and we look forward to helping in the preparation of the car for its world record

attempt."

Al Jafr was chosen by the head of the project, current world record holder Richard Noble, after he had scoured three continents and visited 14 other sites to find suitable conditions.

Noble said the "situation in Al Jafr is superb. We are close to a Jordanian Air Force base which offers both accommodation and access and we have a track of 16 kilometres of very hard, very flat surface on which to run."

The surface of the Al Jafr is baked, compacted mud and is expected to offer much better grip than sand or salt when Thrust SSC carries out trial runs in Jordan. The testing of the twin jet engine powered car will be a build up to September's scheduled attempt to beat Noble's current world record of 1019.44 kilometres per hour. Noble hopes to see Thrust SSC raise the record to 1368 kph. The 9 tonne 16 metre

long monster accelerates to supersonic speed in 23 seconds.

Castrol have sponsored the research and development work for Thrust and will be providing lubricants for the Rolls Royce engines as well as for their aluminium alloy wheels which will rotate at 8500 rpm and have a massive heat build up.

Specially designed lubricants will be used to maintain the efficiency and peak performance of each of the 11340 kilogramme thrust of the twin jet engines.

The Thrust SSC's construction is very similar to a supersonic prototype fighter. The carbon and aluminium body panels will produce an extremely stiff structure which will preserve its aerodynamic shape while experiencing the high stress of supersonic flight just 250 millimetres of the ground.

## Bowe will fight Golota

NEW YORK (R) — It will be a beefy Riddick Bowe who fights Andrew Golota Thursday after the former heavyweight champion tipped the scales at 252 pounds (114 kg) at the weigh-in on Tuesday.

In his last fight, an eighth-round knockout of Evander Holyfield nine months ago, Bowe fought at 246 pounds (112 kg).

Bowe's venerable trainer, 84-year-old Eddie Futch, was not bothered by his fighter's extra baggage.

"I don't care about his weight, he's a heavy-weight," Futch said of the 28-year-old Bowe, who has a 39-1 record and reigned twice as world champion in the last four years.

But Golota's trainer, Lou Duva, could not hide his delight at Bowe's weight. His unbeaten Polish fighter, who now fights out of Chicago, came in at 243 pounds (110 kg), right around his normal fighting weight.

"We don't have to worry about the weight, he's the guy who has to worry," Duva said.

And with two more days before the scheduled 10-round fight at Madison Square Garden, Duva could only guess at exactly how much more Bowe will weigh when he steps inside the ropes.

"He could come in at 260 pounds (118 kg) and as the rounds go by, it will be hard to keep going," Duva said.

"He is going to run out of gas. That is how we are going to win the fight." Other numbers suggest otherwise. Bowe is a 10-to-1 favourite.

Bowe has beaten many of today's top heavyweights, including Holyfield twice in a classic trilogy of fights against the former champion. Last year Bowe stopped both Englishman Herbie Hide and Cuban Jorge Gonzalez in the sixth round.

## English League entices top foreign players

LONDON (R) — England's Premier League is starting to entice some of the world's best players away from Italy and the influx of foreign talent will keep growing, according to soccer officials.

Huge amounts of money pouring into English soccer has helped turn the Premier League into "the place to play," said a league official.

The off-season scramble by England's Premier League clubs which has seen Brazilians, Italians, Croats and Romanians join the swelling ranks of overseas players, is far from over.

English clubs are reported to have already spent 45 million Sterling (\$70 million) to secure the likes of Italian internationals Fabrizio Ravanelli, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo, Brazilian Emerson and Romanian Florin Raducioiu and the chequebooks are still out.

"Clearly there is a developing view that the English Premier League is the place to be and the place to play," said league spokesman Mike Lee. "And the summer transfer season is not over yet."

"We have reversed the trend where top English players went overseas. This is a dynamic league, one of the most exciting to be in, and TV money makes it possible."

From the bleak days of the mid-1980s when English soccer slumped to a low point with its expulsion from European club competitions in the wake of boogymen and the deaths of fans in football-terrace disasters, the game has been transformed.

Lucrative satellite television deals, growing sponsorship and better marketing have funded the changes, while more exciting soccer, improved stadia and better policing have

brought the fans flooding back.

It has all contributed to making England as attractive as Italy or Spain for the world's leading players.

"The premiership can now compete with any league in the world for players," said Sam Hamman, millionaire owner of Wimbledon Soccer Club.

That is partly because every Premier League club will collect nine million Sterling (\$14 million) from the satellite television contract this season.

After the Premier League started in 1992, English clubs tended to buy Scandinavian players but the real catalyst came two years ago when Tottenham bought German international striker Juergen Klinsmann from Monaco.

His success, which ended in his winning the English footballer of the year award, encouraged Dutchman Ruud Gullit to join Chelsea from Italy and Brazilians Juninho and Branco to move to less-fashionable Middlesbrough last season.

Gullit has now succeeded Glenn Hoddle as manager of Chelsea and persuaded Vialli, Di Matteo and French defender Franck Leboeuf to move to the London club, while former England captain Bryan Robson signed another Brazilian, Emerson, at Middlesbrough.

The biggest signing of the close-season though was Robson's capture of Ravanelli for seven million Sterling (\$11 million).

Before this summer it would have been unimaginable for players of the calibre of Ravanelli and Vialli, seasoned internationals with Juventus, one of the world's richest clubs and European champions to boot, to move to England.

League officials say that although English clubs now have the money to compete in the world marketplace,

big wages are not all that is luring leading foreign players.

"It's not just the TV money that has attracted them but the reputation of English league football together with rising attendances, new stadia and great atmosphere," said Lee.

Another key turning point was the bosman ruling by the European court of justice which outlawed restrictions on the number of players from EU countries that a team could field.

That, together with the freedom of movement within the European union for players out of contract, has transformed the transfer market.

"The Bosman ruling makes it inevitable there will be more foreign players coming into the English game," said Lee.

Criticism that the influx of foreign talent is at the expense of British-born players and that the championship will be contested by a few rich clubs was dismissed by the Premier League.

"We like to think that one of the things achieved by TV money, sponsorship and rising attendances is that it means medium-size clubs are in with a genuine shout of the title," said Lee.

"To say the league is dominated by a few is not borne out by the facts. Signings by the likes of Middlesbrough have enabled a smaller club to develop into a new force in the game. TV money has meant more clubs are able to compete."

The Premier League is also funding youth development programmes. Lee said: "We want to attract top internationals to improve the general quality but don't want to lose sight of the development of our own players."

## National League wins 3rd straight All-Star Game

PHILADELPHIA (R) — In a baseball season of explosive scoring, nine National League pitchers combined on a seven-bitter Tuesday to win the All-Star Game 6-0, with local boy Mike Piazza the offensive star and Most Valuable Player.

It was the first All-Star shutout in six years and extended the National League's winning streak to three games as the mid-summer classic returned to Philadelphia for the first time in 20 years.

While John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves and eight relievers held the American League in check, Piazza, the Los Angeles Dodgers catcher, won the MVP by driving in two runs with a tape-measure homer and a double.

"I dreamed about this when I was a kid," said Piazza, a native of nearby Norristown, Pennsylvania. "It's the biggest thing that has happened to me. I'm really emotional now, really choked up."

Piazza helped the National League take a 40-26-1 lead in the series, which began in 1933. He became the first Dodger to be named All-Star MVP since Steve Garvey in 1978.

Smoltz was followed to the mound by Kevin Brown of the Marlins, Tom Glavine of the Braves and Ricky Bottalico of the Phillies, each of whom did not allow a hit.

Pedro Martinez of the Expos gave up two hits in the sixth, but Steve Trachsel of the Cubs worked a 1-

2-3 seventh.

Todd Worrell of the Dodgers surrendered two hits in the eighth. New York Mets centre fielder Lance Johnson, who got the start because of an injury to San Diego's Tony Gwynn, led off and sliced a line drive caroming off left fielder Albert Belle for a double. Johnson moved to third on a groundout and came home on a bouncer to first by the "Giants" Barry Bonds.

Piazza struck again in the third, doubling home Cincinnati's Barry Larkin with two out off Chuck Finley of the Angels to give the NL a 4-0 lead.

Cleveland's Kenny Lofton became just the fourth player in All-Star history to steal more than one base in a game.

St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith made his 14th and final All-Star game appearance and received a long, emotional ovation when he came to bat in the seventh inning. The 41-year-old Smith has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

"The reception has been wonderful. I can't say thank you enough to all the people who have come out and thanked me that way. Yeah, it's a very touching time, a very emotional time for me in my life. Tears are still in my eyes."

Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas was scratched from the AL starting lineup due to a strained left foot. Boston's Mo Vaughn took his place.

Ripken was injured while the AL All-stars were assembled for their team picture. White Sox relief ace Roberto Hernandez slipped off a platform and caught Ripken in the face with his left forearm.

Ripken, who has played in a Major League record 2,239 consecutive games, started his 13th straight All-Star Game.

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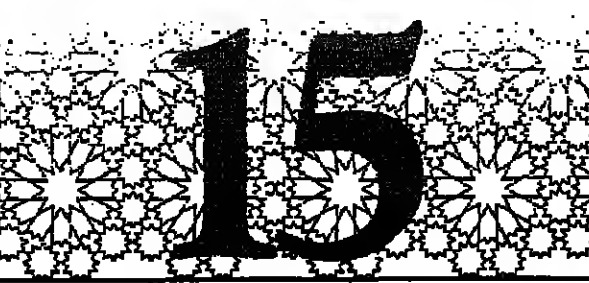
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The bidding has proceeded:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
10 Pass Pass 10  
Pass 2NT Pass 7  
What action do you take?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
107 0584 056 44XJ684

The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
10 Pass 10 Pass  
20 Pass 2NT Pass  
What action do you take?

Q. 5 - As South vulnerable, you hold:  
40J1045 050d 05J103 4KQ64

hold:  
484 051055 05106 4KJ92

The bidding has proceeded:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 10 Pass  
30 Pass 7  
What action do you take?

Q. 8 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
4KJ744 056 05J982 40

The bidding has proceeded:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
10 30 Pass 7  
What action do you take?

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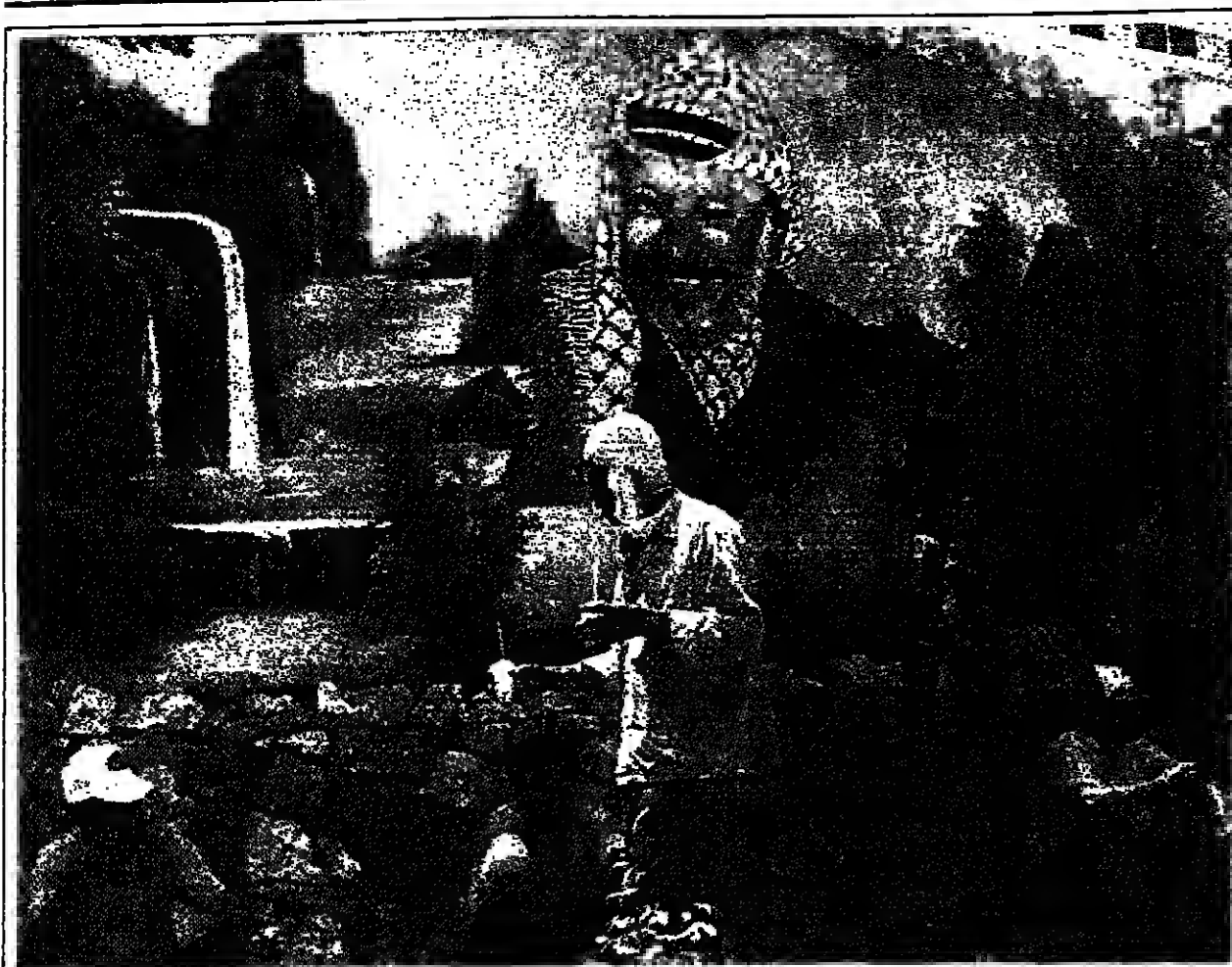
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**PALESTINIANS ENJOY A WARM SUMMER DAY:** A group of Palestinians escape the heat by sitting in the shade under a big portrait of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in one of the Gaza Strip gardens Wednesday. The temperature reached 38 degrees Celsius in Gaza Strip (Reuters photo)

## Riyadh, Damascus urge world to pressure Israel, demand Iraq to implement U.N. resolutions

**RIYADH (AFP)** — Saudi Arabia and Syria on Wednesday called for world pressure to force the new Israeli right-wing government to respect the peace process with the Arabs and ensure its success.

"The Saudi kingdom and Syria urge the concerned countries, the United Nations and international institutions to join efforts to make Israel respect the principles of peace and honour its commitment," a joint statement said.

The two sides expressed their commitment to U.N. land-for-peace resolutions 242, 338 and 425 following a

meeting of the joint Saudi-Syrian committee in the Saudi capital.

Such resolutions guarantee "the total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, South Lebanon and all Palestinian territories, including the city of Jerusalem," they said.

Riyadh and Damascus said the "continuation of the peace process and the resumption of peace negotiations required a commitment to apply the principles of peace, particularly resolutions 242, 338 and 425."

Saudi Arabia offered its support to Damascus in its struggle "to counter obsta-

cles placed by Israel (...) to free itself of its responsibilities toward the peace process."

"Riyadh totally supports Syria's just claims and efforts to recover its land in line with the resolutions," the statement added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara, who co-chaired the meetings with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al-Faisal, on Tuesday accused Israel of engaging in "terrorism" and warned the peace process could grind to a halt.

His comments came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was

explaining his right-wing policies in Washington to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Saudi-Syrian statement also called on Iraq to "apply all U.N. resolutions" concerning the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and "free all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and those of other nationalities."

But both said they were "very committed to Iraq's territorial integrity and opposed to any threat against the country's sovereignty."

They also condemned as a "terrorist act" the June 25 truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. military personnel in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

## Iraqi oil deal held up by French-Russian dispute

**UNITED NATIONS (AFP)** — Last minute objections from France and Russia are holding up guidelines for the prompt adoption of the "oil-for-food" agreement signed between the United Nations and Iraq, diplomats here said.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee was ready to act on the guidelines late Tuesday, but had to delay the meeting because of what Committee President Antonius Eitel called a "minor question."

"We will meet again on Friday in order to adopt in the committee the expedited procedures," the German ambassador said.

Mr. Eitel said he was fairly confident the agreement would go through, saying that some delegations were awaiting instructions from their governments.

The ambassador did not name any names, but said the problem was "not between the normal contenders."

Mr. Eitel may have been referring to a longstanding French-American

dispute over how the "oil-for-food" deal should be implemented: France calls for maximum flexibility, while Washington wants the accord to be monitored as strictly as possible.

Since it was signed on May 20, the deal allowing Iraq to export up to two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to buy badly needed food and med-

icines has been tied up with the 15-member sanctions committee, whose experts have drawn up a 12-page report with the main details.

The approval of the details would mark a new stage in the slow and chaotic process to enact the oil-for-food deal, diplomats said.

Another stumbling block delaying the guidelines is the Russian delegation which apparently has not received timely instructions from Moscow on how to vote on the guidelines.

The main sticking points in nearly two months of discussion are the price-fixing mechanism to be used in the deal and the choice of four experts to monitor and approve oil transactions between Iraq and foreign companies under the agreement.

The sanctions committee will select the independent experts from various countries and appoint them as overseers at the U.N. headquarters here, the document said.

Mr. Eitel said there were at present some 12 candidates to the four posts, but that the final number could be increased.

Diplomatic sources said the United States, France and Norway are strong choices for three of the four monitoring posts, but that the fourth was being disputed among Russia, the European Union and Italy.

In addition to these over-

seers, the sanctions committee will also have to choose up to 44 inspectors in charge of supervising Iraq's oil exports and the arrival of humanitarian shipments.

Mr. Eitel stressed that even with the approval of the guidelines, the oil-for-food deal would not become a reality until U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali approve it.

U.S. officials have said the Iraqi plan is unacceptable because it gives Baghdad too much control over food distribution, particularly in areas controlled by rebel Kurds.

Chinmaya Gharekhan, counsellor to Dr. Ghali, Monday started a series of meetings with Iraqi envoy Abdul Amir Al-Anbari to discuss the plan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton charged Iraq Tuesday with continued violations of U.N. resolutions concerning the six-year ceasefire agreement signed after the 1991 Gulf war, but stressed support for allowing oil sales to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"We are determined to see the resolution implemented as the council intended; a mechanism to bring relief to suffering Iraqis, while denying the benefits of the oil sales to" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Mr. Clinton said.

### 4 journalists get scholarships to cover U.N.

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Four young journalists from developing countries were awarded scholarships Monday to enable them to cover the three-month U.N. General Assembly session opening in September. They were M'amehela Masupha of the Mirror newspaper, Lesotho; Amira Al Hussaini of the Gulf Daily News, Bahrain; Unaloto Ofakimale Kaukimoce of Radio Fiji and Martineza Batista De Oliveira of Women's Feature Service, Brazil. The awards are given annually by the U.N. Correspondents Association's Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund, set up in tribute to the second U.N. secretary-general, who was killed in an air crash in Africa in 1961.

### Australia's camels are a traffic hazard

**SYDNEY (R)** — An outback Australian town has declared local camels a night-time traffic hazard and has hung tail-lights off them to prevent cars and pedestrians colliding with the so-called ships of the desert. The local authorities of Broome, a remote resort town on the north-west coast, decided about two weeks ago to fit camels with battery-powered, flashing red tail-lights after a number of near misses on and around Broome's famous cable beach. "You couldn't see them at night," Broome Shire Council Clerk Greg Powell told Reuters by telephone Wednesday from the old Indian Ocean pearling port, about 3,300 kilometres northwest of Sydney. Hundreds of pedestrians and vehicles descend daily on Cable Beach in the late afternoon to watch the sun go down, as well as about 30 camels bearing tourists on Sunset Beach treks. "It can be quite eerie. You can be there (after sunset) and the next minute you can be surrounded by camels," Mr. Powell said, adding they were also a hazard off the beach as they were led silently back along Broome's roads to their stables each night. The camel owners bang the bicycle tail-lights from the back of the saddles.

### Store rejects credit cards of world's 10th richest man

**MANILA (AFP)** — The world's 10th richest man, Chinese-Filipino tycoon Tan Yu, was forced to wait half an hour after machines at the airport's duty free stores could not verify his credit cards, newspapers reported Tuesday. Mr. Tan Yu purchased \$1,836 worth of chocolates and liquor and presented an American Express gold card and a Visa gold card to pay for the goods when he arrived from Taiwan, said Edwin Clemente, duty free sales assistant. But after the cards were swiped, the credit card verification machine kept replying "try again." "It may be that his bank account has insufficient funds or that there was some communication problem," Mr. Clemente was quoted as saying. As he tried to process the billionaire's purchases, Mr. Tan Yu, dressed in a cowboy hat, white pants and jacket waited patiently in the arrival area with his daughter, businesswoman Elena Coyuto, the reports said. Finally, Mr. Clemente called the Manila office of American Express where they allowed him "to approve the deal and let him (Tan Yu) sign the slip." Mr. Tan Yu, who owns extensive properties in the Philippines, Taiwan, United States and Canada, was named by Forbes magazine as the world's 10th richest man, holding assets worth \$7 billion.

## Taliban rocket kills four

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Taliban rockets slammed into a western suburb of Kabul on Wednesday killing four people and wounding five others, hospital officials said.

The assault came as Afghanistan's new Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar warned Taliban rebels of a major offensive to end what has become daily rocket attacks on the capital.

"We have asked them to stop rocketing... if they insist then we will push them back from the city," Mr. Hekmatyar said in a news conference in the capital. He didn't say when the assault may occur. The Taliban militia of former Islamic religious students have been pounding the city daily since June 26 when Mr. Hekmatyar was sworn in as the new prime minister.

Since then hospital officials say at least 150 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded.

The Taliban army, dug in on the outskirts of Kabul, is demanding the resignation of both Mr. Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani. They want to establish a rigid Islamic government in Kabul.

Both Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar have offered to negotiate a peace deal with the Taliban that would give them a place in the new coalition government.

So far they have refused and have promised to continue their assault on the war ravaged capital.

## Muasher: Citizens to be compensated for higher bread prices

**Special to the Jordan Times**

**AMMAN** — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said Wednesday that plans to lift subsidies from wheat will not lead to an increase in the prices of bread for citizens who will be receiving annual payments to offset the increase in the cost of bread. He said the government will put a mechanism to distribute subsidies to citizens who will be divided into three categories.

Dr. Muasher said the first group includes Jordanians with National Aid Fund coupons whose number totals 200-250 persons. This group will be given bread for free.

The second group comprises Jordanians working in public and army sectors who have Ministry of Supply coupons and who will be given JD 15 annually to help them buy bread at the expected new price of 250 fils per kilo.

The third group, he said, which includes Jordanians with high income who are not entitled to Ministry of Supply coupons will also be refunded for the extra cost they pay for bread.

Dr. Muasher stressed that the government has been studying this project to restrict subsidy to the "genuine beneficiaries and to stop the waste of this subsidised food item in a bid to cut down on amount of subsidy borne by the treasury."

"Every Jordanian will receive JD15,260 every year to offset differences between the current and new prices of bread to ensure that none will be affected," Dr. Muasher said.

"By providing the annual subsidy to Jordanians, the government will be paying a total of JD 64 million from the treasury," he said.

Dr. Muasher added that cutting down government expenditures will save the country \$53 million annually.

He said the government has been subsidising bread by JD 80 million; fodder by JD 80 million; sugar, powdered milk and rice by JD 40 million.

Dr. Muasher added the government was forced to lift subsidies for bread due to the increase of the cost of the prices of wheat on the international market.

The prices of wheat had gone up by more than three folds and the amount of funds allocated in the budget for subsidising wheat would only cover one third of the cost.

He said maintaining subsidy will mean a budget deficit which the International Monetary Fund has warned the Kingdom of developing.

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## Hizbollah frees two SLA captives, keeps dead Israeli soldiers

**BEIRUT (R)** — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) freed two captured fighters of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) on Wednesday but said it would keep the remains of two Israeli soldiers for a future exchange deal.

Naeem Qassem, Hizbollah's deputy secretary-general, freed the two SLA militiamen ambushed in Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone in 1993 and 1994 during a news conference in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs.

"This initiative comes in the course of continuous efforts to evoke the issue of prisoners and detainees inside the jails of the Zionist enemy and his agents," Sheikh Qassem said.

Israel was holding 70 Lebanese prisoners inside Israel and its SLA allies are holding about 200 Lebanese without trial in a hilltop jail at Khiam inside the zone, Sheikh Qassem said.

He accused Israel of "aborting a number of exchange proposals...by

linking the fate of Lebanese detainees with the unknown fate of the Zionist pilot Ron Arad" who was captured in October 1986 after his plane was downed over South Lebanon.

Israel has in the past said Mr. Arad was in the hands of Iranians or their followers in Lebanon and insisted he should be part of any deal to free Lebanese prisoners.

"We don't know anything about Arad. If we did, we would not have hesitated in using him to free our dear brothers and sisters in jails," Sheikh Qassem said.

"Everyone knows the names of the two dead Israelis we have. We don't have any others and we don't know of any others. We will keep the two for a future exchange deal," he added.

This was a reference to Yossi Fink and Rachamim Al Sheikh captured by Hizbollah in South Lebanon in 1986. Israel said in 1991 it had received confirmation from Hizbollah the two were dead.

## Israel-U.S. summit spells doom for peace process — opposition

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Opposition leaders in Israel said Wednesday they saw little hope for the Middle East peace process after the summit meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"The peace process is in danger of dying," said Ephraim Sneh, Labour member of Knesset and former health minister.

Mr. Sneh told state radio that Mr. Netanyahu's pledge to pursue settlement activity in the Palestinian territories was the gravest cause for

concern. "Netanyahu's key phrase was the one on settling the West Bank and Gaza in line with his government's policy," he said.

"That means there will be no separation between Israelis and Arabs. There will not be two distinct national entities."

"Netanyahu did not hide from President Clinton his minimum target for the number of Israeli settlers in the territories this year: 250,000 people" compared to 145,000 now, Mr. Sneh added.

"Other left-wing leaders were scathing about the

vaunted "chemistry" between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Clinton as they watched the White House press conference on television Tuesday.

"Seen on the small screen, the two men's press conference showed evidence there was no chemistry between them," said Yossi Sarid, head of the left-wing Meretz Party.

"They gave the impression they were finding it very difficult not to disagree in public," he said.

Yossi Beilin, who was minister in charge of the peace process under former

Labour Premier Shimon Peres, said "deep differences were perceptible between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Netanyahu."

He said he noticed divisions between the two leaders over the much-delayed redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron, the settlements issue and the pursuit of the peace process.

Mr. Netanyahu, on his first official visit to Washington since his May 29 election, refused to be pinned down on the Israeli redeployment in Hebron or whether he would meet

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Despite efforts to cover up their differences, the press conference given by Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Clinton was edged at times, especially when the rightwing Israeli leader expressed his doubts about the principle of land for peace which Washington has pledged to uphold.

Mr. Clinton also appeared distinctly ill at ease when he was asked about his open support for peace architect Peres during the Israeli election campaign.

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